



New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc.)

P.O. Box 12-019
Wellington.

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The New Zealand Ecological Society was formed in 1951 and promotes the study of all aspects of ecology. Membership is open to any person interested in ecology. There are four classes of members who pay:

- (1) \$30 for ordinary members,
- (2) \$18 for student members,
- (3) \$6 for introductory members, and
- (4) \$6 for retired members.

Ordinary and student members receive the N.Z. Journal of Ecology plus the quarterly newsletter.

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NEWSLETTER: The editors welcome correspondence, interim reports of current research, news items, and other articles. Unless specifically indicated other-wise, views expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Ecological Society or its Council.

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Send material to Society box number

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(items marked * may require action on your part)

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SOCIETY NEWS

NEWSLETTER CHANGE

With Newsletter No. 51 the Christchurch gang is relinquishing control of the information nerve centre of the Society which it seized in July 1983. The Newsletter Team would like to thank all those who have written and supplied material for the Newsletter over the last 5 years. Your efforts were much appreciated, both by us and the readership as a whole.

We also thank the successive Secretaries of the Society - Janet Owen, Alice Fitzgerald and Susan Timmins, who fed us the raw material to keep the Newsletter going, and agonised when the finished product unaccountably failed to appear.

As of yet we do not have a new Newsletter Team, but one is being sought in the greater Wellington area. Good luck guys, whoever you may be!

Until informed otherwise, potential contributors should send Newsletter material to the Society box number, 12-019, Wellington.

CORRECTION

In the last Ecological Society Newsletter (No. 50) John Parkes had somehow been given Carol West's job. His correct occupation and scientific interests are:

John Parkes

Scientist, Forest Research Institute
P O Box 31-011, Christchurch

Animal ecologist interest in the control and management of introduced mammals.

FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you to all the members who have sent their subscriptions for 1988/89. If you have overlooked this years sub, please forward it as soon as possible. Early subs save a considerable amount of additional work and postage later in the year.

Apologies to members whose names and addresses on the renewal notices were misprinted, misaligned or misspelt. We have just changed computers, and the new system proved too much for the old printer. However, the gremlins are now banished, and all labels should be correctly spelt. Please let me know if initials, names, titles, etc. are wrong.

Nigel McCarter
Hon Treasurer

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Dave,

The Lumberjack's Dictionary of Non-sexist Terminology gives "breast" three stars as "either the milk-secreting organ in woman, or the corresponding rudiment in man". Clearly, to use either alone (as in DMSOIWH, or DCRIMH) would be offensive, but such terms have never caught-on with lumberjacks, who are simple folk, and feel at ease with Bs. DAAAHOOPSM is frequently as a means of communication in the diverse forests of the North Island, though its meaning is lost in the mists of antiquity. Dendrochronologists also use variants of DAAAHOOPSM but, because they develop intimate relationships with individual trees, they also have a specialised jargon. In particular they use the term "diameter at core height" or DCH. Despite the potential for C to be confused with Chest, this abbreviation has no sexist connotations, is precise and never questioned by editors, referees or (as yet) JC.

Under "Science and Accountability" (Newsletter 50: p11-15), I thought that John made some really good points, and I found myself in almost total

agreement. In the University context - at least - criteria for research money allocation (p13, a to f) should include some acknowledgement of time spent teaching others in research areas (MSc and Hons students). This is a significant component of our "research" time and one which has major significance to "the general community".

Hope to see you wearing your tape measure head band in Dunedin.

John Ogden

Remuera, Auckland

OBITUARY : SIR CHARLES FLEMING, K.B.E., O.B.E., B.A., D.Sc.(N.Z.),
D.Sc.Hon Causa, F.R.S., FRSNZ, F.M.A.N.Z., F.G.S., For.Mem.Amer.Phil.Soc.

It is difficult to pay adequate tribute to a man who has contributed so much to our knowledge and understanding of New Zealand's natural history. Nor, in the present ecological context, is it sufficient to look at the long list of Sir Charles' publications and highlight those that are ecological in content. Through thousands of stimulating conversations and probing questions, and through a prodigious number of letters to observers and other correspondents up and down the country, amateur and professional alike, Charles Fleming has had an enormous influence on the development of natural history studies in New Zealand. The breadth of his interest extended from the organisms of marine environments to those of the coastal, lowland, montane and alpine zones. The systematic position, behaviour and evolutionary history of these organisms were all of interest to him. In his own words: "Because ecology is an essential approach in any modern work on systematics, distribution, bio-stratigraphy, and evolution, it is difficult to separate any particular part of a study as ecology" (Fleming 1952a).

Sir Charles contributed to this Society's first annual conference in 1951 when he discussed historical factors affecting the ecology of isolated areas. In that contribution he wrote: "As ecologists we see but a single frame or two in a motion picture and our single frame can give a misleading idea of relation of organic distribution to environmental factors" (Fleming 1952b). It was this awareness of the relationship between geological time and an organism's history that Sir Charles brought to all his scientific thinking. It enabled him to approach current conservation and management problems with a perspective that not only made one conscious of the immense and unique history of some of our endangered animals and plants, but which also brought the true significance of changes currently affecting them into sharp relief.

His many published scientific contributions began with his 1939 paper on Chatham Island birds. These observations have proved to be the foundation stone on which all subsequent bird conservation work in the Chathams has been built. This study was not only an intellectual challenge, but a physical one as well. He was the first ornithologist to scale the

formidable cliffs of Little Mangere Island and establish that both the black robin and Forbes parakeet had survived there even though disappearing from all other islands in the group as a result of forest destruction and the introduction of cats and rats.

Sir Charles' ecological interests were never restricted to birds. His contributions to palaeontology made as a result of his work with marine molluscs have been far-reaching for the understanding of the New Zealand stratigraphic sequence. But his approach to these molluscs was ecological: "The time is past when fossils were considered empirically as mere labels to rocks of different stratigraphic position and their study as members of former living communities, defined by environmental factors, helps geology as much as biology" (Fleming 1952a). On land his invertebrate interests extended to cicadas for which he made pioneer contributions to their systematics, ecology and acoustic behaviour (e.g., Fleming 1975a).

His interest in plants and their distribution is evidenced in his discussion of the age of the alpine biota (Fleming 1963), New Zealand as a place of origin for certain plants dispersed elsewhere (Fleming 1976) and of course in his three major biogeographic syntheses published between 1962 and 1979.

Charles Fleming was never afraid to promote an unconventional idea. Although some writers before him had suggested that the extinction of moas could be attributed to man, it was not until Sir Charles assembled the evidence for this in an unambiguous manner, that man's role in this most significant ecological event of the country's Holocene history became clear. In view of the continuing controversy over whether the Maori were "conservationists", it is pertinent to note Sir Charles' remarks about moa extinction: "It seems we are reluctant to blame our fellow men for a pre-historic offence against modern conservation ideals and would rather blame climate or the animals themselves" (Fleming 1962b).

Sir Charles had an acute feel for what was 'good science' in the sense of being able to recognise a real question susceptible to scientific enquiry. His approach was unashamedly curiosity-motivated and, to use his own word, "elitist", because as he so rightly pointed out: 'truth' is not determined by majority vote, "not by the favour of the many, but by the wit and

energy of the few, often, indeed, by a minority of one" (Fleming 1964, 1984). He knew the value of the 'educated guess' in science, as for example when he wrote his history of the New Zealand landbird fauna (Fleming 1962c). His view was that unless one is prepared to provide a hypothesis to test, even though the data are limited, it is often not possible to make progress.

He toiled unceasingly to convey to people the uniqueness of the biota and the environment of the country in which we live. It was this awareness that spurred on his efforts to protect our natural heritage, including Lake Manapouri, from the enormous forces that are operating to reduce this country's biological diversity to that of so many 'developed' countries in other parts of the world. His years of service on advisory bodies such as the National Parks Authority, the New Zealand Environmental Council and the Fauna Protection Advisory Council (of which he was its first independent chairman), and his presidency of and other work for the Royal Society of New Zealand, all contributed to this effort. Beyond this was his extensive behind-the-scenes lobbying to make New Zealand a more interesting place in which we and our children can live rather than merely exists.

Throughout all his work Sir Charles was assisted and supported, in the field and at home, by his wife 'Peg'. We are particularly grateful to her for the extent to which she helped Charles maintain an incredibly high output of scientific writing despite a serious health problem in his latter years. We can be thankful that as a result of this help so much of his wisdom and learning has been left in written form for those not privileged to know him personally.

Sir Charles was always ready to give credit to the scientific achievements of others and to give encouragement to those struggling with the difficult problems of managing and protecting endangered species. His positive influence can never be properly assessed because he often helped in subtle

and unobtrusive ways. We have lost both a wise counsel and a friend, but we are fortunate to have had such a man among us.

Ian Atkinson
2 March 1988

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NOTE: A comprehensive account of Sir Charles Fleming's life and work is to be published by The Royal Society of New Zealand.

DISCUSSION PAPER

ECOLOGY IN THE 1990's

A discussion paper examining the role and activities of the New Zealand Ecological Society.

At the first Council meeting after the 1987 Conference, the new Council felt it would be useful to review the role and activities of the Society going into the 1990's. A working group was established and the following is their report. The content of this report will be open for discussion at the 1988 AGM; if you are unable to attend the AGM but have views on the issues raised here please contact Murray Williams.

1.0 Background

The Council meeting at which this working group was formed gave us a relatively open brief for our review of the role and activities of the Society. We have therefore taken the opportunity to range widely, which has meant that in some areas we have not gone into as great detail as we would have liked.

We set our brief to be:

- (a) To look at the problems which are facing the Society now, or which may be in the near future;
- (b) To suggest ways in which these problems may be addressed;
- (c) To present to Council some options for specific activities or courses of action on which the Society may embark in 1988.

The title of this paper reflects a feeling which developed as our discussions progressed, that is, that the problems facing us are primarily the result of problems facing ecology as a discipline, rather than the Society in particular. We use the word "problems" loosely; it is perhaps more appropriate to think of them as challenges brought by changes in society.

2.0 Introduction

The Ecological Society at present has over 400 members. We know little

about our members, beyond personal knowledge of individuals on the address list. From that, it appears that the majority of members work in Government Departments (DSIR, FRI, DOC and MAF) or Universities; student membership is not high; there is a group (of about 30%) who use their home address for mail contact, and of whom we know virtually nothing!

The working group felt from the outset that we were unsure who the Society represents; what members seek from the Society; what they are prepared to pay for that service.

At its founding, the Society represented the research ecologists, concentrating interests in "basic" plant and animal ecology. However, the subject itself has become more complex, no longer being confined to units within botany and zoology courses, and our Society may need to reflect these changes.

This paper, then, poses a series of questions about ecology and the Society. We have tried not to re-invent the wheel, and have contacted other societies for information.

2.1 Areas of Concern

We have identified a number of areas about which concern has been expressed, either informally to us or through publications; they are listed below. Section Three poses questions about some of them; in Section Four, the groups whom we might target are described, and in Section Five some specific actions are outlined. Section Six concludes with recommendations on the Society's objectives.

Areas of concern to the Society and its members:

- * Lack of funds for long-term, 'non-directional' research.
- * Lack of research into newer or wider aspects of ecology (mainly through lack of funding or resources).
- * Poor student involvement in our conference.
- * Poor relationships with overseas ecological societies, particularly Australian.
- * Poor links between landscape ecology, human ecology, 'deep' ecology, agricultural, horticultural, silvicultural ecology, land and water-use, and planning-related ecology within the Society.
- * Inconsistent definitions (e.g. development, conservation, planning, management, environment) confuses both ecologists and lay-people.
- * Poor communication with other Societies and professional bodies.

- * Low level of involvement in schools.
- * Low level of interaction with politicians.

3.0 The Questions

3.1 Membership

Q: Do we want to expand our membership numbers to include people from other fields?

We do not have a large membership, but this reflects our present objectives. We feel, however, that the problem is not one of numbers, but of type of members. Ecology today is being recognised as THE holistic discipline, from which many others draw strength; the term "eco-mater" has been suggested to describe this relationship. Ecologists must still provide the knowledge of the SCIENCE of ecology to the other practitioners. Our Society could benefit from the expertise of these people, while increased income from subscriptions would always be valuable.

3.2 Public Awareness

Q: How aware are members of the public of ecology, and of its relevance to everyday life?

We feel that the image of ecologists is that of "greenies" and that few people even realise that many of their daily activities are governed by ecological principles (e.g. sewage disposal). Allied to this comes low political awareness, from local through to national Government levels, and the relevance of any long-term environmental planning for New Zealand. This again encompasses the promotion of all aspects of ecology which has to date only been tackled through the Nuclear Warfare book.

3.3 Poor Communications

Q: Are we responsible for the low public awareness of ecology, and should we be responsible for improving it?

In attempting to meet our Society objective of promoting all aspects of ecology it appears that this is our weakest area. The Society produces a good academic journal, and holds an acceptable conference; we communicate reasonably well with each other. We feel that if the Society is not to remain merely a forum for erudite(?) discussion, we should pass on our knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject to others. For most ecologists, the basic principles of the subject provide a philosophy by which to live. We are not all alternative life-style practitioners, but we all understand

the consequences of pollution and over-use of resources in our daily lives. Surely there is a responsibility to communicate this to others?

3.4 Marketing

Q: Should the Society actively promote ecology?

Ecologists seem to have been reluctant in the past to push forward their views and knowledge. partly this may stem from the philosophy, noted above, that gives us an appreciation that nothing is certain, and thus that our information cannot ever be totally uncontradictable. However, ecological predictions are based on much sounder principles than economic ones; they are natural laws, and not subject to changes by human or political fashion. Economic theories are often based on unsubstantiated assumptions, yet the marketing skills of this group have led to acceptance of their ideas by the public.

The majority of ecologists have been employed by Government Departments in the past, which may have also prevented individuals from being outspoken, or even from participating in open discussion about contentious ecological matters.

3.5 The Society's Objectives

Q: Are the Society's objectives relevant for the present or immediate future?

It seems that the Society has been successful only in promoting the "study of ecology" and not so good at "all its aspects". Perhaps we first need to define "all the aspects" then seek the expertise to promote them?

4.0 Target Groups

Target groups are listed, with some objectives which could guide the Society towards communicating with them.

POLITICIANS:

*** Increase their awareness of the importance of ecological processes in many of the decisions they make.

(This should be done by offering positive advice, in particular for complex issues which may be wider than the interests of any single Government Department which may be asked for advice. This action should be taken without waiting to be asked! A key subject at present is the impact of the cost-recovery programme on research; perhaps the Society should be monitoring changes).

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS:

*** Increase the awareness of ecological principles in Departments such as MOT, Tourism and Publicity.

*** Foster relationships between scientists and managers in DOC, MAF, MOF.

*** Promote good ecological land management in Landcorp, Coalcorp, Workscorp, etc.

INDUSTRY:

*** Promote good ecological management, showing longer-term benefits, for larger industries (e.g. Fletchers, Newmans).

UNIVERSITIES/COLLEGES/SCHOOLS:

*** Seek appropriate curriculum activities to develop understanding of ecological principles by staff and students.

*** Promote introduction of applied and integrated courses which reflect the holistic nature of ecology.

*** Promote student involvement in Society.

OTHER PROFESSIONS:

*** Define, if possible, the profession of "ecologist" and thus determine relationships with groups such as landscape architects and planners.

*** Raise our standing as professionals in the eyes of these groups, to promote understanding of our ideas.

*** Investigate relationships between overseas Ecological Societies and professional groups.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC:

*** Determine what is the image of "ecology".

*** Promote our own image of the subject in both its pure and applied forms.

*** Investigate the links between public awareness, informed decision-making, values, and political influence, and their relevance to the Society.

5.0 Specific Action Ideas

In this section, we outline some activities that the Society might pursue to deal with the questions set out above. The questions and these "answers" are of course interlinked; any course of actions would be determined by the Council's view of priorities for the Society. Some will need the approval of the full Society.

5.1 Society Organisation

It may be appropriate for the Society to have a simple "management

plan". This would set out our long and short-term aims, and how we want to achieve them. It would also indicate who would be responsible for them and by what date. This plan would be guided by the Society's objectives and rules (possibly new), and would give a clearer picture of what the Society does and who it represents, than at present. It would thus set priorities for the actions listed below.

5.2 Publicity and Communications

Actions which could be taken to increase our public profile, which in turn would increase our membership:

- produce newspaper articles; establish contacts with local and national press/media, for regular coverage.
- produce regular press releases on current events, for TV, local radio, press, stating our opinions or involvement.
- (dependent on Publications Group report) produce our own, simply-written magazine for articles about everyday ecology (not just conservation); investigate joint publications with other groups, such as planners, landscape architects, geologists, etc.
- produce occasional books, posters, pamphlets, etc. (possibly jointly) on specific issues.
- hold public meetings on local matters.
- hold short meetings or seminars in regions; aim at students, other scientists, professions.
- hold regular joint meetings with other societies.
- produce submissions as matter of course to all appropriate Government commissions, inquiries, select committees, etc.; set up "legislation" sub-committee to organise this.

5.3 Education

The Society has not been particularly active in the formal school/college/university situation. We believe that an increased activity in this area is important.

- seek closer involvement at a local level, with schools projects, sixth-form activities.
- have a membership drive among teachers and lecturers.
- seek involvement with teacher training courses.
- run specialist training courses for teachers.
- increase involvement with extra-mural course teaching

- get Society involvement in curriculum and syllabus planning
- reinstate education sub-committee, with wider brief
- set aside one session at conference for student papers; give grants to students giving papers, allocated competitively if necessary
- arrange local or regional study tours for public, visitors.

5.4 Professional

The Society represents a wide range of people. For those who consider themselves as professional ecologists there is no other body to link them or set standards for their work. Some steps could be taken to advance that aspect:

- resurrect and publicise the register of consultants
- investigate the creation of a professional "institute"
- send representative to Australian Ecological Society Conference
- revise membership categories to reflect diversity of membership.

6.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

The working group believes that the Society's membership reflects its current objectives; i.e. predominantly people who 'study ecology' through research, with a smattering of those interested in all 'aspects'.

Any changes which may be made to the Society would also be to the benefit of the science and the profession of ecology in New Zealand.

Areas of greatest need for review are:

- * low public awareness of ecology, the Society, and the importance of ecology to everyday life.
- * poor Society involvement in most aspects of education.
- * low political awareness of ecology and its importance in planning at all levels.
- * poor communications with other disciplines.
- * absence of a professional body to better represent members.

We feel that Council must first decide what and whom it wants the Society to represent (i.e. research ecologists, people with degrees in ecology, foresters, science teachers, amateurs?). This includes some options:

1. To continue as we are, a loose association of people with an interest in some aspects of the subject, but possibly with greater commitment to a specific branch, OR
2. To move towards an organisation which represents those people who

regard themselves primarily as ecologists, and possibly towards the formation of a professional body, accepting a drop in membership, OR

3. To form a professional organisation with a variety of types of membership, which would enable us to represent allied small groups and professions, such as conservation officers, or scientists. This may be similar to the recently-formed Environment Institute of Australia.

The working group has not investigated these options further, recognising the need for comment from Council first. We feel that there are many opportunities for change, but that given the limitations on resources (mainly human) we can only take small steps. The first priority is to determine the role of the Society; from there, many of the actions follow naturally.

We feel that an option which increases the professional status of our science is appropriate and that the Society's objectives should encompass the following principles:

1. Promoting the study of ecology.
2. Increasing public awareness and appreciation of ecology.
3. Promoting sound ecological planning and management.
4. Ensuring that standards within the profession are maintained.

Judith Roper-Lindsay

Gavin Daly

David Norton

ECOL. SOC. CONFERENCE - DUNEDIN 22 - 26 AUGUST 1988

CONFERENCE OUTLINE

Monday, 22 August

- morning - travel to Dunedin
- afternoon - Symposium session 1
- evening - wine and cheese social at University College

Tuesday, 23 August

- morning - Symposium session 2
- afternoon - Symposium session 3
- evening - Ecological Society AGM

Wednesday, 24 August

- morning - Symposium session 4
- afternoon - field trips
- evening - political forum and TV Natural History Unit
contribution on presenting science to the general
public

Thursday, 25 August

- morning - Symposium conclusions
- afternoon - contributed papers session 1
- evening - Ecological Society Annual Dinner at University
College

Friday, 26 August

- morning - Contributed papers session 2
- afternoon - participants migrate home

POSTERS

Poster contributions are still being accepted. If you want to present a poster at the conference, please advise us of the area of display board required, and the title before 22 July 1988.

Monday, 22 August

1.15-1.45 pm Introduction to symposium : David Norton

Session 1: Protected area design and location: importance for management.

1.45-2.00 pm Overview: Colin Ogle

Case Studies:

2.20-2.40 pm Ken Hughey - Reserve establishment and management on braided riverbeds; the Ashley River

2.40-3.00 pm Murray Potter - Farmland, bush remnants and reserve design for the North Island brown kiwi; a case study.

3.00-3.30 pm afternoon tea

3.30-3.50 pm Katherine Dickinson & Alan Mark - Tussock grassland reserve design, some practical considerations.

3.50-4.10 pm Peter Espie - management applications using the Mackenzie PNA database.

4.10-5.35 pm Workshops

1.1 What is natural and how natural is our 'natural' estate? Do only 'natural' areas qualify for protection?

1.2 How relevant is the ecological district framework for protected area design and location? For example, would it not be better to have one large protected area in an ecological region rather than several smaller protected areas in each ecological district?

1.3 How should boundaries be determined, should they incorporate buffer zones, and how should they relate to the surrounding matrix?

1.4 Rapid inventory; how useful is it?

Tuesday, 23 August

Session 2: Management of largely intact natural areas.

8.30-9.05 am Overview: Ron Tindall

Case Studies:

9.05-9.25 am Andrew Cox - Management of New Zealand's subantarctic national nature reserves.

9.25-9.45 am John Parkes - Eradication or control by sustained harvests; which option for tahr.

9.45-10.05 am Katherine Wells - Stewart Island; a case study for a

marine protected natural area.

10.05-10.25 am Dick Veitch - Rehabilitation of Cuvier Island.

10.25-10.55 am morning tea

10.55-12.15 am Workshops

2.1 In what situations should single species management take precedence over community management?

2.2 How do we allocate our limited resources in the area of wild animal control? Do we attempt complete eradication of all or only some, do we encourage recreational hunting, what is the likely long-term effect of the strategy adopted?

2.3 What is the best approach to the control of unwanted naturalised plants, or should we even bother?

2.4 How effective are coastal and marine protected area?

12.15-1.30 pm Lunch

Session 3: Management of semi-natural areas

1.30-2.05 pm Overview: Brian Molloy

Case Studies:

2.05-2.25 pm Neil Challenger - Ecology in the productive landscape.

2.25-2.45 pm Colin Meurk, David Norton & Janice Matter - The effect of removing grazing pressure on grassland reserves; three Canterbury examples.

2.45-3.05 pm Hugh Wilson - Hinewai; an ecological restoration project on Banks Peninsula.

3.05-3.25 pm Kelly Duncan - Management of remnants for their invertebrate fauna.

3.25-3.55 pm afternoon tea

3.55-4.15 pm David Given - Critical minimum population sizes in modified habitats.

4.15-5.40 pm Workshops

3.1 How do we manage highly depleted remnants, especially in urban areas?

3.2 How do we maintain faunistic diversity in semi-natural areas?

3.3 What is the role of disturbance (e.g. fire and grazig) as a management tool, especially for maintaining seral vegetation?

3.4 What are realistic goals for rehabilitating habitats and what constraints if any, should be placed on such management?

Wednesday, 24 August

Session 4: Integrating ecological management with other land and water uses.

- 8.15-8.45 am Overview 1: Koua Langsbury, Tatene Wesley & Carolyn Campbell - a Maori perspective on conservation
- 8.45-9.15 am Overview 2: Peter Elworthy - a farming perspective on conservation
- 9.15-9.45 am Overview 3: Alan Rackham - a recreational and tourism perspective on conservation.

Case Studies:

- 9.45-10.05 am Wayne Fraser - Recreational hunting areas; a thorn in the Department of Conservation's side?
- 10.05-10.25 am Liz Slooten & Stephen Dawson - Hector's dolphins; a case study for integrating conservation and fishing.
- 10.25-10.55 am morning tea
- 10.55-11.15 am Chris Stewart & Robin Thomas - Otago Peninsula; integrating conservation and tourism
- 11.15-12.45 pm Workshops
- 4.1 How can we best uphold the principals of the Treaty of Waitangi in ecological management?
- 4.2 What are the practicalities of integrating productive objectives and nature conservation?
- 4.3 What are the practicalities of integrating recreation and tourism objectives, and nature conservation?
- 4.4 How can we involve local community groups in ecological management?
- 12.45-1.00 pm collect lunches to eat on bus.
- 1.00-5.30 pm field trips.

Thursday, 25 August

- 8.30-10.15 am workshop reports
- 10.15-10.45 am morning tea
- 10.45-12.30 am general discussion on symposium themes.

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS SECTION

Thursday, 25 August

- 12.00- 1.30 lunch
- 1.30- 2.00 Mick Clout - Conservation of New Zealand Bush birds in

- the next decade.
- 2.00- 2.30 Henrick Moller - Biological control of Vespuolid Wasps and other wide ranging pests of the New Zealand biota.
- 2.30- 3.00 Graeme Jane - Problems in pest control; the lessons of Pitt and Chatham Islands.
- 3.00- 3.30 Afternoon tea
- 3.30- 4.00 Colin Miskelly - Food availability and the timing of breeding in Snares Island Snipe.
- 4.00- 4.30 Mary McIntyre - Recruitment and dispersal of tuatara on Stephens Island.
- 4.30- 5.00 Bill Lee - Fruit features in relation to species ecology in the genus Coprosma.
- 5.00- 5.30 Martin Sykes - Sand, salt, natives and neophytes.

Friday, 26 August

- 8.30- 9.00 Ray Tangney - Island biogeography at Lake Manapouri - theory and practice.
- 9.00- 9.30 Peter Wardle - Grazing and management; introducing an indigenous factor?
- 9.30-10.00 Malcolm Harrison - Integrating ecological databases; a first step in integrating ecological management.
- 10.00-10.30 Morning tea
- 10.30-11.00 Jim Hone - Management of wildlife for disease control in natural areas.
- 11.00-11.30 Murray Efford - Stability and change in a population of brushtail possums; 22 years of monitoring in the Orongorongo Valley.
- 11.30-12.00 John Innes - Impact of large scale possum control for TB on North Island kokako populations.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 1988

Statement of Accounting PoliciesGeneral Policy

These accounts have been prepared according to the NZ Society of Accountants general accounting principles appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings and financial position on a historical basis.

Particular Policies

- (a) Stock of Journals has been valued at an estimated realisable value.
- (b) Subscriptions in arrears and Journal in arrears have been included at the amount it is thought will be collected.
- (c) Depreciation - the filing cabinets have been depreciated at 10% of 27 March 1986 value.
- (d) These accounts are for a one-year period ending 31 March 1988.

Audit Report

I have examined the books and records of the New Zealand Ecological Society and have received satisfactory explanations wherever required. I consider that the attached accounts show a true and correct position of the Society's results for the twelve months ended 31 March 1988 and its position at that date.

H.M. Kirschberg
FCA (Rotorua)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 1988

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
Subscriptions in advance	51.00	Subscriptions in arrears	340.00
Journal in advance	665.67	Journal in arrears	3022.90
<u>Education Fund</u>			
Balance at 1.4.87	338.74		
excess inc/exp	22.20		
	<u>360.94</u>	Westpac No 2 a/c	360.94
<u>Conference Fund</u>			
Balance at 1.4.87	74.12		
Principal of Term Deposit	3824.14		
excess inc/exp	1972.88		
	<u>5871.74</u>	Westpac Commercial Deposit Conference A/c	5871.74
<u>General Fund</u>			
Balance at 1.4.87	21905.12		
exc inc/exp BNZ	3517.32	Westpac No 1 a/c	2055.79
exc inc/exp gen funds	2984.24	BNZ call deposit	<u>22595.63</u>
	<u>6501.56</u>		24651.42
		Filing Cabinet	398.92
		less depreciation	<u>39.89</u>
			359.03
		Stock of Journals	150.00
	<u>35356.03</u>		<u>35356.03</u>

NEW ZEALAND ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY INCORPORATED

Statements of receipts and payments for the year
ended 31 March 1988

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
Subscriptions arrears	729.68	Printing Journal	13847.80
Subscriptions current	11393.00	Printing Newsletter	1210.31
Subscriptions advance	51.00	Postage	1829.39
Journal arrears	1791.94	Address labels	380.88
Journal current	2049.54	Stationery	224.08
Journal advance	665.67	Council Expenses	189.20
Journal back copies	237.00	Sundry	170.63
Journal reprints	854.30	Conference Speakers Travel	2350.57
Sundry payments and donations	376.30	Royal Society Affiliation Fee	196.78
Conference 1987	51599.16	Conference	49472.89
Levy for speakers travel	1350.00		
Advance bt. fwd	100.00		
Total Interest	4541.06		
Sub total	75738.65		69872.53
<u>Balances at 1 April 1987</u>		<u>Balances at 31 March 1988</u>	
General fund	1702.07	General fund	2055.79
Education fund	338.74	Education fund	360.94
Conference fund	74.72	Conference fund	5871.74
BNZ call deposit	19078.31	BNZ call deposit	22595.63
Westpac term deposit	3824.14	Westpac term deposit	closed
Sub total	25017.98		30884.10
GRAND TOTAL	100756.63		100756.63

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNTS

		EXPENDITURE		INCOME
<u>General Fund</u>				
Journal Net Cost		6087.69		
Newsletter printing		1210.31	Subscriptions	12682.43
Postage	Journal	824.36	Interest Received	263.30
	Newsletter	611.38	Sundry Receipts	255.81
	General	382.10	Balance bt fws conference	100.00
Address labels		1817.84		
Stationery		380.88		
Council Expenses		224.08		
Royal Society		189.20		
Sundry		196.78		
Depreciation		170.63		
		39.89		
Excess of income/expenditure		2984.24		
		<u>13301.54</u>		<u>13301.54</u>
<u>Education Fund</u>				
Postage		11.55	Interest	33.75
Excess of income/expenditure		22.20		
		<u>33.75</u>		<u>33.75</u>
<u>Conference Fund</u>				
Speakers Travel Expenses		2350.57	Interest from Term Deposit	322.37
Excess of income/expenditure		1972.88	Interest	404.32
			Sundry	108.00
			Sundry	12.49
			Levy from conference	1350.00
			Profit from Turangi Conference	2126.27
		<u>4323.45</u>		<u>4325.45</u>
<u>Conference Westpac Term Deposit</u>				
To commercial Deposit		4146.51	Interest	322.37
			Principal	3824.14
		<u>4146.51</u>		<u>4146.51</u>
<u>BNZ Call Deposit</u>				
Excess of income/expenditure		3517.32	Interest	3517.32

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 36th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Ecological Society (Inc) will be held at the Lecture Room, Otago University, Dunedin, on Tuesday 23 August 1988 at 8pm.

The agenda for this meeting is set out below.

AGENDA

- ~~1)~~ Apologies
- ~~2)~~ Confirmation of the Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting
- ~~3)~~ Matters arising from the Minutes
- ~~4)~~ Receive balance sheet and statement of accounts
- ~~5)~~ Receive Annual Report
- ~~6)~~ Election of officers
- ~~7)~~ Election of Council
- ~~8)~~ Notices of Motion
- ~~9)~~ Ecological Society roles and activities
- 10) General Business

(Please note: Notices of Motion must be with the Secretary one month before the AGM)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 1988

It has been a year of introspection for the New Zealand Ecological Society. Changes in the direction, funding and structure of science in New Zealand have forced upon the Society a re-appraisal of its finances, publications, organisation and role. The task is not yet complete and it is being made all the more difficult by the continually changing economic and social climate that presently envelops New Zealand.

We have only to look back at our two most recent annual reports to reflect upon the magnitude of recent changes and the uncertainties accompanying them. The 1986 annual report recorded our positive support for the re-structuring of environmental administration in order to remove major conflicts of interest within and between some government departments. The emergence of a single guardian of the natural estate and heritage, the Department of Conservation, was welcomed. Yet, after only one year of operation, this new department is severely constrained financially and is to be subjected to a far-reaching review of its administration and management. Major structural changes are portended.

Alongside that review is another encompassing all environmental law statutes. This too will have major ramifications which will almost certainly result in further changes in administration. The impact of these further changes on who does and who commissions ecological research will be profound.

The emphasis on cost recovery, referred to in last year's annual report and which now pervades our science has ensured the role of ecological research to be one of increasing servitude. Greater emphasis is now placed on short-term problem-solving research at the behest of clients who have funds to spare. It is not wrong that science should be both accountable and contribute to economic wellbeing, but should all research be revenue-earning or management-driven? Already research funds have sharply diminished. What now? And where is the long-term perspective?

An appendix to last year's annual report listed our priorities for ecological research in New Zealand over the next decade. We compiled that list at the request of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Now, 12 months later, our considerable endeavours appear as an exercise in futility. No agency, it seems, now has the security of funding, nor the mandate to embark on topics in the long-term national interest.

It is easy to be overwhelmed with pessimism about the perceived role of science in the present economic and political climate. The 'Beattie report' on science and technology has sunk, virtually without trace. Fellow scientists are being declared redundant. Science enrolments at universities continue to decline. And our parent body the

Royal Society is seemingly unable to convince economic and science ministers within government, or the public at large of science's value and role. It all bodes ill for science over the next decade.

But as students of ecology we learn much about adaptation to changing environments. And it is this process that prompted the Society's year of introspection.

The regular meetings of Council have for years been subsidised by employers. Now in the 'user pays' environment this support is being withdrawn and the Society is having to carry a higher administrative cost. Our immediate response has been two-fold: (i) to constitutionally limit the size of Council in direct relation to the number of members; and

(ii) to transact some Council business by means of a 'core-Council', a quorum of councillors, domiciled this year in Wellington who can inexpensively handle some of the more routine business. This year, the core-Council met three times and the full Council (of eight councillors plus officers) three times. With a little further refinement this procedure could serve the Society well in the future and constrain administrative expenditure.

How are we to allocate and commit our limited financial and human resources? This was one of several questions which motivated a re-defining of the Society's raison d'être. Accompanying this annual report is a copy of a discussion paper on the future direction and role of the society, prepared by vice-president Judith Roper-Lindsay and councillors Gavin Daly and David Norton. Before Council can move positively in any of the directions suggested in that paper, it requires feedback from members.

This review of the Society's role and direction precluded the re-establishment of former council sub-committees. No initiatives were taken in the fields of education, conservation or on nuclear issues, nor did the Society prepare any submissions on environmental matters or awards. Past efforts in these fields have rested very heavily on but a few shoulders, and if the Society is to continue past initiatives and responses on such topics, a wider involvement of the membership will be necessary. But members have to re-confirm their interest in the Society being involved in political and environmental issues.

Council is conscious that past activities of the Society have concentrated on promoting the study of ecology, leaving our other objective, promoting the application of ecology, out in the cold. To more successfully fulfill our two objectives, the society needs to include in its ranks more non-scientist. And it should ensure a forum for dialogue between scientists and the users of science information. It is pleasing therefore to report a membership increase of 42 for the year, to an all-time high of 478. A further increase, particularly including natural resource managers is hoped for following our forthcoming annual conference.

Our publications still reflect our primary concern with the study of ecology. The Journal of Ecology has 149 subscribers and a total print run of 650 per issue but is this the only formal publication we should produce? The journal editor, Nigel Barlow reports below on a review of our publications. Suffice to say that the journal, together with our modest newsletter, consumes 70% of our annual income, which leaves very little room for other initiatives. Nor does it leave any room for other than voluntary production of our publications. The tentacles of 'user pays' are descending towards our journal and some hard decisions about our principal publication will have to be made in the next year.

Financially, the Society remains in good heart with a reserve equal to one full years' operating costs. This allows a modest level of support for students attending our annual conference and for the occasional funding of overseas speakers. It is the Council's policy to maintain the reserve at or about its present level.

All officers and members of Council have had major tasks this past year and it is a pleasure to acknowledge their very considerable voluntary effort. So too do I record with gratitude the efforts of Matt McGlone and Kelly Duncan in seeing our newsletter compiled and distributed, and of Nigel Barlow in producing his third issue of the New Zealand Journal of Ecology.

Murray Williams
President

EDITOR'S REPORT

This report is rather longer than usual for two reasons. One is the eventful year, the other the Editor's long suppressed desire to reveal all. The journal is currently thriving, the number of papers submitted increases every year, and we have begun to look seriously at options for the future. Do we forge a closer ecological relationship, for example, and merge with the Australian journal?

Twenty five papers or short communications were submitted for Volume 10 and 20 accepted. Several of those initially declined required major revision and were reconsidered for the current volume. This represents a lower initial rejection rate (20%) than in the previous and current year (31%).

This year 32 papers have been offered, three of which were too late to meet the deadline for Volume 11 (31 December) and a further nine rejected. Reasons for rejecting papers included bad methodology (one), poor writing (two), inappropriate subject matter (eg purely botanical or purely behavioural; two), lack of scientific merit (eg uncritical reviews or basically 'thin' papers: two), and author intransigence (two); some were rejected for more than one reason.

The proceedings of the moa symposium are nearing completion, thanks to Mike Rudge, and all the papers have been processed. It will be published in a format uniform with the journal and as a separate supplement to a volume. In spite of keeping their heads low moas appear to have a high profile at the moment, and the possibility exists of re-editing and publishing a second version for sale to a wider audience.

On a personal note, editing the journal over the last few years has been something of a chore, but also a privilege and a tremendous learning experience. Every year things happen which I vow will not happen the next. Generally they do not, but others do. It therefore takes three years or so to become acquainted with the job, by which time the input is beginning to take its toll. Some problems appear every year, such as the large amount of time required to process a small proportion of the papers, the worst papers taking the most time. The bane of an editor's life is the author who persistently refuses to grasp the essence of a referee's or editor's criticism and repeatedly returns partly revised scripts; the correspondence can go on for years. On the other hand a quality, well-written paper makes one want to ring up the author and thank him/her. Another problem is the obvious one; is a marginal paper actually worth publishing? For this editor at least, agonising over this is the most difficult part of the job. In practice it helps to ask whether it would be accepted by *Oecologia* or one of the British journals. The fact that one can even ask this question suggests that the New Zealand journal is not entirely a soft option for papers which cannot be published overseas, though it is obviously still easier to have a paper published here. This raises another problem, which is that of balancing international acceptability and attractiveness with what members like to read; they, after all, pay for the journal and the two aims are not always compatible. Finally there is the problem of the batch-processing of papers throughout the year, which is, to some extent, an editorial indulgence, or survival strategy, and which deserves explanation to some puzzled or frustrated authors. Basically, a paper submitted too late for one issue is acknowledged but does not get processed until that issue is out, which can mean a delay of several months before anything appears to happen. It does not affect the overall time between submission and publication, but does mean that authors submitting early have no longer to revise their papers than those submitting late. This will change in future, and the time to publication is still far less than for any other ecological journal I know of, even with only one issue a year.

Partly because the journal has reached a turning point, in terms of cost and demands on editor's time on the one hand and potential to expand on the other, Council appointed a subcommittee comprising Nigel Barlow, Carol West and John Parkes, to address the options for future Society publications. The other main reason was to assess how best to achieve the Society's aim of better communication and promotion of ecology. For the journal, the recommendation was to increase to at least two issues a year if possible, either

by increased membership fees and/or commercial sponsorship, or through a cost-effective arrangement with Blackwell Scientific Publications. This last option is being explored in detail but could only eventuate through a merger with the Australian Journal of Ecology. Needless to say, this has both advantages and disadvantages for the Society. In any case the editorial system would change, with a larger Board, one editor responsible for each volume and an editor-in-chief overall, and a business manager in the event that the Society continued to act as publisher. In terms of other publications, there was a strong desire by Council to see a glossy magazine produced by the Society, selling ecology and its relevance to management to a wide audience in an attractive form. However, the cost, including a paid editor, was prohibitive. The recommendation was therefore for an improved newsletter format and enlarged content, and to consider production of individual ecological/management fact sheets along the lines of AgLink (Ecolink?) or Alpha.

Returning to the journal, I offer my thanks as always to the sub-editors John Gibb, Peter Johnson and Dave Towns, and to the anonymous referees whose handwriting is often so well-known. Perhaps it is time we had more international referees.

Nigel Barlow
Editor

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1987

The 35th Annual Conference was held at Turangi Outdoor Centre, and Turangi Senior Citizens Clubrooms from 25 to 28 August 1988. There were slightly fewer than usual registrants but a cohesive, cosy conference ensued. Most participants travelled overland arriving on Monday night. The conference was opened by Mr Tumu Te Heu Heu of Ngati Tuwharetoa. The Symposium that followed, on the theme 'Disturbance in New Zealand Ecosystems', produced a lot of material relevant to a conference held in Turangi to mark the National Park Centennial. Each of the two sections, physical and biological, were capably introduced by our keynote speakers, Phil Tonkin and Tom Veblen.

The general conference programme was as follows;

Tuesday	Symposium Wine and Cheese evening including a debate
Wednesday	Symposium Summing up of Symposium Contributed papers Poster session Annual Dinner

Thursday Field trips
AGM

Friday Presidential address
Contributed papers

Papers presented at the Symposium were:

Philip Tonkin	Abiotic disturbance in New Zealand ecosystems: a geomorphic perspective.
Neall and Lees	The impact of volcanism on ecosystems of the North Island.
Clarkson	Vegetation succession following recent (less than 450 years) volcanic disturbance in the North Island.
Burrows	The importance of snow avalanches as a disturbing influence in South Island mountain vegetation.
Thomas Veblen	Biotic disturbance and vegetation dynamics.
Shaw	Disturbance and the vegetation of Urewera National Park: an overview.
Stewart and Rose	Techniques for analysing forest disturbance history.
Steele	Disturbance and mountain beech forest in Tongariro National Park.
Jane	Can natural disturbance be distinguished from red deer impact in simple mountain beech forest?
White	A systems perspective on disturbance.
O'Connor & Swaffield	How is anthropic disturbance to be accommodated in landscape ecology and nature conservation.
Howard-Williams	Invasion of Lake Taupo by the submerged waterweed <u>Lagarosiphon major</u> : implications for the native flora.
Chapman	Heather invasion in Tongariro National Park.
West	<u>Clematis vitalba</u> : an invader of disturbed ecosystems.

The bus field trip on Thursday took people for a round trip in the vicinity of the Tongariro volcanoes and the effects of many major natural disturbances were seen and explained by on-hand experts. Similarly the aquatic field trip looked at local wet things and the 'muddy boot' field trip explored ecological patterns at a leisurely pace.

Papers presented in the contributed papers sessions on Wednesday and Friday were:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Dickinson | The Waikaia Ecological Region - results of PNA surveys of the Umbrella and Nokomai Ecological districts. |
| Burns & Shaw | Ecology of wild populations of kakabeak (<u>Clianthus puniceus</u>) at Lake Waikaremoana. |
| Williams, Courtney, Glenny & Hall | The diversity and conservation status of pakihi vegetation in North Westland. |
| Timmins & Williams | Permeability of PNAs to problem plants. |
| Hollinger | Effect of overstorey dieback on understorey light environment and seedling photosynthesis in mountain beech. |
| Clarkson, Clarkson & Patel | The structure and composition of two forests buried by the Taupo eruption. |
| McIntyre | Habitat used by cockroaches in kanuka-beech forest. |
| Clout, Gaze & Karl | Movements, diet, and breeding of the New Zealand pigeon. |
| Craig & Mitchell | Vegetation qualities and whitehead stock size. |
| Atkinson | Opportunities for biological restoration in New Zealand. |
| Nugent & Challies | Deer diet on Stewart Island and its significance in relation to the impact of deer on New Zealand forests. |
| Triggs | Population genetics of the bush-tailed possum. |
| Clapperton, Sandlant & Moller | The distribution and abundance of <u>Vespula</u> wasps in New Zealand. |

- Gaze, Moller, Thomas & Tilley Effects of feral honey bees and wasps on honeydew.
- Beggs & Wilson Feeding energetics of kaka in South Island beech forest.
- Wilson, Beggs & Karl Movements and habitat use by kaka in South Island beech forests.
- Halloy A comparison of lifeforms of New Zealand.
- Norton & Kelly Mast seeding by the dioecious forest tree rimu in New Zealand.

The poster session, formally held in the hour after lunch on Wednesday, but available for people to peruse throughout, was a valuable addition to the conference. Much exchange of ideas and suggestions for future research occurred as a result of the posters presented. Posters were prepared by:

- Hitchmough The relevance to ecologists of a systematic revision of Gekkonidae.
- Nugent & Sweetapple The relative impact of three hunting regimes in Northeast Fiordland.
- Fordham & Ogden Some features of kaikawaka seedlings and their sites in Tongariro National Park.
- Young Effects of fragmentation on forest communities and the relevance of fragment area to reserve design.
- Innes Do 1080 aerial poisoning operations kill North Island kokako?
- Parkes Condition of hares according to age, sex, and reproductive state.
- Clarkson & Johnson Recent Botany Division publications.
- Leathwick National Forest Survey data computerisation.
- Shaw & Steward Forest Research Institute PNA database catalogue.
- Timmins & Williams Characteristics of problem weeds in New Zealand's protected natural areas.

MINUTES OF THE 35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the New Zealand Ecological Society, Turangi Outdoor Centre, Turangi, Thursday 27 August 1987, commencing 8.30 pm.

Present

Dr IAE Atkinson (chairman) plus 60 members and 7 non-members.

1. APOLOGIES

Murray Williams, Mike Butcher, John Warham, Mary McEwen, Janet Owen, Pam Williams, Ben Bell, Warwick Harris, Eric Scott, Dave Kelly, Lin Roberts, Mike Rudge.

Moved Judith Roper-Lindsay/Peter Wilson that apologies be accepted. CARRIED

2. MINUTES OF 34TH AGM

Alan Mark/Carol West moved that the minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting be taken as read and approved. CARRIED

3. MATTERS ARISING

- (a) Checklist of recommended current plant names. Subsequent to the lengthy discussion of this issue at the 34th AGM, two partial solutions are imminent. Nomina Nova IV will be published in October; it covers name changes since 1960. Tony Druce's plant list will soon be freely available. While neither provides a consensus list both provide a guide to preferred names.

There was further discussion of this issue with some members still very keen to have an authoritative checklist of preferred names and other members vowing it could not be done. The President was instructed to write to the Director of Botany Division and convey the views of the meeting.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 1987, prepared by the Treasurer and audited by Mr HM Kirschberg had been distributed to members as part of newsletter supplement August 1987.

- (a) It was noted that the sundry item receipt of \$104.68 was from the wind up of the funds of the Manawatu Branch of the Society.
- (b) Members were concerned that money surpluses were put to good use.

Nigel Barlow/John Craig moved that the Society accept the balance sheet and statement of accounts as certified by Mr HM Kirschberg. CARRIED

A vote of thanks was given by the President to John Innes for his efficient handling of the accounts.

5. ANNUAL REPORT

Moved Ian Atkinson/Susan Timmins that the annual report be adopted, as printed in the newsletter supplement August 1987, as an accurate record of the Society's activities. CARRIED

The Director of Science and Research, Department of Conservation, commented that the Society's list of research priorities had been used by the department.

It was noted that there was no education subcommittee report in the annual report because activity of this group in the past year had been minimal.

6. RULE CHANGES

The proposed rule changes and explanations had been previously circulated to members.

(a) Rule changes relating to Council

The primary motives for these were (i) to limit the size of Council which had been growing and thus becoming more expensive to administer and (ii) to ensure a turnover of personnel and thus ensure a steady influx of new ideas.

(1) Moved Murray Williams/Rod Hay that Rule 6(a) be amended to read:

"The Council shall consist of the following:-

- (i) The officers except the Hon Auditor
- (ii) The immediate past President
- (iii) Two financial members per 100 financial members of the Society, and pro rata, elected by the Annual General Meeting".

Explanation

This will fix the size of the Council in direct relation to the total membership. For a membership of 395, it would allow 7 Councillors, for a 435 membership, 8 Councillors.

(2) Moved Murray Williams/Rod Hay that a new rule, to be numbered 6(e), be inserted in the rules, and shall read:

"The members of the Council shall be elected to serve a term of two years".

Explanation

To re-define the term of a Councillor and thus prepare the way for a roll-over system of Councillor representation to provide continuity between successive Councils.

- (3) Moved Murray Williams/Rod Hay that existing rule 6(e) be re-numbered 6(f) and be amended to read:
 "All officers and members of the Council shall be eligible for immediate re-election, PROVIDED ALWAYS that:
 (i) no person having held the same office either of President, or Vice-President for two successive years shall be eligible for immediate re-election to that office; and
 (ii) no person having been a member of the Council for two consecutive terms shall be eligible for re-election as a member of the Council until a further period of two years has elapsed".

Explanation

This introduces a restricted service clause for Council membership and defines a period of ineligibility for further membership. The purpose is to encourage a wide involvement of the membership in the affairs of Council and to provide more opportunities for this to take place.

- (4) Moved Murray Williams/Rod Hay that:

"existing Rule 6(f) be renumbered Rule 6(g)
 "existing Rule 6(g) be renumbered Rule 6(h)
 "existing Rule 6(h) be renumbered Rule 6(i)
 "existing Rule 6(i) be renumbered Rule 6(j)

Explanation

Simple re-numbering of existing Rules as a consequence of the insertion of a new rule as Rule 6(e).

Amendments

Moved John Parkes/Peter Williams that rule 6(a), clause (iii) be amended: "Two financial members per 100 financial members of the Society as at the end of the previous financial year,..."

Rod Hay/Mick Clout moved a further amendment to clause (iii):
 "One councillor per 50 financial members of the Society, as at the end of the previous financial year, and pro rata, elected by the Annual General Meeting".

CARRIED

John Flux/Michael Greenwood moved an amendment to rule 6(a) to include a further clause:
 "Provided that Councillors are financial members of the Society and there are a minimum of 4 Councillors on Council."
 CARRIED

John Craig/Neil Mitchell moved an amendment to new rule 6(e):
 "The members of the Council shall be elected to serve a term of one year."
 NOT CARRIED

Margaret Leslie/Susan Timmins moved an amendment to rule 6(e) to read:
 "The Councillors shall be elected to serve a term of two years".
 CARRIED

Moved Richard Sadleir/Peter Wilson that the motions covering these rule changes be moved as a block.
 CARRIED

The rule changes as amended were CARRIED

(b) Rule changes relating to the appointment of Auditor

At present the Auditor, who is an officer of the Society, is supposed to be 'nominated by members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting...' (Rule 6(a)).

This is in fact impractical since if a new Treasurer is appointed, he/she must then go out and find a suitable Auditor in their home town. This isn't fast. It would be better if the Auditor were to be appointed by Council. Changes to four rules are required to accommodate this.

Moved Margaret Leslie/John Innes that the following new rules be adopted:

Rule 6(d) Candidates for positions as officers, except the Editor, Royal Society Member Bodies' Committee Representative and the Auditor, or as members of the Council, shall be nominated by members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting...etc.

Rule 6(h) (ie old 6(g)) The President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) and Councillors shall take office two months after the close of the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected. The Editor, Royal Society Member Bodies' Committee Representative and Auditor shall take office immediately on appointment. These Officers and the Councillors shall have full control of the management of the Society except where otherwise provided in these rules.

Rule 7(c) (second sentence) The Hon Auditor shall be appointed each year by the new Council and a reappointment in case of a casual vacancy can be made by Council as required.

Rule 8(a)(ii) Elect the officers and Council for ensuing year. CARRIED

7. REPRESENTATION ON COUNCIL

Some members felt that the Society should give some financial support to Councillors for travel to Council meetings. This would reduce the work load on Wellington-based Councillors by encouraging non-government, non-Wellington based members to be Councillors. The concept of an executive Council was discussed. The use of conference phone-calls should be investigated.

Moved Richard Sadleir/Neil Mitchell that the Society offer to pay for reasonable travel costs where necessary of all Council members to a minimum of two selected meetings a year. CARRIED

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following were nominated:

<u>Office</u>	<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposers</u>
President	Murray Williams	Ian Atkinson/ Susan Timmins
Vice President	Judith Roper- Lindsay	Murray Williams /John Leathwick
Secretary	Susan Timmins	Peter Williams/John Innes
Treasurer	Nigel McCarter	John Innes/John Leathwick

There being no other nominations, these nominees were duly elected.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Ian Atkinson, the outgoing President, for his hard work as President of the Society over the last two years.

9. ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS

Ian Atkinson moved from the chair that in order to establish the rollover system of Council representation, this AGM approves the re-appointment to Council, for a term of one year, the three shortest-serving members of the present Council, i.e. Peter Williams, Carol West and John Parkes. CARRIED

According to new rule 6(a), 5 Councillor positions were available for election.

The following were nominated to serve as Councillors:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Proposers</u>
David Norton	Matt McGlone/Robin Fordham
Bill Lee	Alan Mark/Katharine Dickinson
Gavin Daly	Susan Timmins/Graham Wilson
Rod Hay	Mick Clout/John Innes
Neil Mitchell	Judith Roper-Lindsay/John Craig
Vicky Froude	Cory Regnier/Dick Veitch
Katharine Dickinson	Carol West/Hazel Chapman
Kay Clapperton	Rod Hay/Mick Clout

Moved Colin Burrows/Richard Sadleir that nominations close. CARRIED

Sue Triggs and Malcolm Smith were appointed as scrutineers. The following were elected as Councillors:

Gavin Daly, Katharine Dickinson, Rod Hay, Bill Lee, David Norton.

The President thanked the outgoing Council for their efforts during the past, often busy, year.

10. GENERAL BUSINESS

(a) Student Participation

Concern was expressed at the lack of attendance at conference by students. It was suggested that students may view the Society as forbidding and are deterred by the cost of travel and registration. The proposal of a separate youth programme did not meet with approval. Suggestions of a subsidy on accommodation, boarding/billets made available and offer of travel money for students giving papers at the annual conference, met with more favour.

Moved John Craig/Peter Wilson that the incoming Council consider setting up a fund to which students could apply for travel assistance to attend annual conference and that a subsidy on accommodation be considered where billeting is not available.

CARRIED

(b) Conference Organisation

A free and frank discussion occurred about the standard, or lack of, presentation of papers at conference.

Major gripes were (i) overheads are often not clear enough - too small, too cluttered, (ii) visuals sometimes hinder rather than aid communication, and (iii) many speakers do not stick to time. Speakers should allow 10 minutes for discussion.

Many solutions were forthcoming:

(1) The notes for speakers should be updated and circulated to all speakers prior to conference.

Dick Veitch/Robin Fordham moved that Council repair and update the handout and ensure that all speakers have these notes prior to giving their paper.

CARRIED

(2) All speakers should have a 'dummy' run prior to conference and receive critical comment from their colleagues.

(3) Similarly, speakers could receive feedback from conference attendees - perhaps one or two people assigned to one or a group of speakers to formally give critical comments.

(4) Chairpersons could vet overheads/slides before the session and remove any which are inadequate (i.e. barriers to communication).

(5) Perhaps a financial reward could be given for the best paper.

(6) Chairpersons should be selected for their ability at chairing as well as knowledge of the topic.

(7) Conference organisers need to be realistic about the time required to move people about so that sessions can start on time. Some extra slack time is required within sessions for introducing speakers, question time, thanking, summing up etc.

(8) The poster session needs to be much longer to be effective.

(c) 1988 Conference

David Norton/Graeme Jane moved that the 1988 conference be held in Dunedin.

CARRIED

A possible Symposium theme was suggested: "Management of protected natural areas". Both scientists and managers should be encouraged to attend, the latter group to include those managers who actually put the management into practice day-to-day.

(d) Dr Wodzicki

The death of Dr Wodzicki, a life member and strong supporter of the Society, was noted with regret.

(e) NZ Herpetological Society

The inaugural meeting of this society will be held on 17-18 October 1987.

(f) Spread of possums to far north

Council had addressed this problem. There appears to be very little that can be done to prevent the inevitable spread. The numbers can be kept down. Also, small, very special areas can be protected.

(g) Goat farming

Colin Burrows/Robin Fordham moved that the Council investigate ways and means of bringing the goat problem to the attention of appropriate authorities.
CARRIED

The problem is that legislation controlling the activities of goat farmers (and their goats) is weak and natural areas are endangered.

(h) GST

Some Society members have difficulty recouping their registration fee etc because their institutions will not accept the Society's receipt which has no GST No. (We are not registered for GST). "Life is too short to stuff an olive" said the Treasurer and alternative solutions can be found to solve the problem.

(i) Alien introductions

Graham Wilson/Rod Hay moved that the Council recommend to government that new legislation be urgently introduced to control the introductions of new plants and animals to New Zealand to protect the quality of our natural environment.
CARRIED

A central quango is being formed to adjudicate on introduction of exotic biota. This quango will be formed outside of government, certainly outside Animal Health Section (MAF). The Society should support this initiative.

(j) Annual Dinner Aftermath

Criticism was made of the after dinner entertainment on two counts: (i) that it was ad hoc, and (ii) sometimes the standard was rather 'low'. It was suggested that some organisation was required and that entertainment should be of a high quality. Ideas should be fed to Rod Hay.

(k) Mount Cavendish, Port Hills

A developer of this reserve wants to put a gondola into 1/4 of the reserve. Concern was expressed not only for this reserve but for all reserves. If the Minister signs the management plan for this reserve, including the departure from normal reserve management, all scenic reserves could become fair game. Local members were invited to support moves to oppose the management plan. The conservation subcommittee will be kept informed of developments.

(l) 1989 Conference

A joint meeting with Soil Science Society is planned for 1989.

(m) Newsletter

The Newsletter Editor jumped to his feet and said that during the year there was a dire lack of any substantial matter but at the AGM there was a flood of issues. "Send it to us when it's hot" he pleaded.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.29 p.m. (phew!).

President.....Date

Present at AGM, 27 August 1987, Chaired by Ian Atkinson:

Susan Timmins	Bruce Clarkson
John Innes	Mary McIntyre
Dave Hunt	John Ogden
Michael Greenwood	Colin Burrows
Margaret Leslie	Dick Veitch
Nigel Barlow	Robin Fordham
Rod Hay	Kay Clapperton
Mick Clout	Marion Steel
John Parkes	Carol West
Matt McGlone	Graham Nugent
Judith Roper-Lindsay	Graeme Loh (non-member)
Neil Mitchell	Paul Blaschke
Peter Williams	Sarah Adams (non member)
Gwen Struik	Fran Hyland
Rod Hitchmough	Ted Kirk
Graeme Elliot	Henrik Moller
Kath Walker	Graeme White
Tony Robinson	Alan Campbell
Hazel Chapman	Vivienne Benzie Burrows
Gavin Daly	Janice Mattar
Mark Davis	Fiona Lilley
Colin Ogle	Graham Wilson
John Skipworth	Peter Wilson
John Craig	Theo Stephens (non-member)
David Bergin	Keith Hawkins
John Leathwick	Pam Cromarty (non member)
Graeme Jane	Phil Tonkin (non-member)
John Flux	Malcolm Smith (non-member)
Meg Flux	Sue Triggs (non-member)
Debbie Parker	Vicky Froude
David Norton	Cory Regnier
Chris Richmond	Richard Sadleir
Katharine Dickinson	Alan Mark

NOTICES

SYSTEMATICS AND BIOGEOGRAPHY OF THE AUSTRAL BIOTA

Ninth Meeting of the Willi Hennig Society

The ninth meeting of the Willi Hennig Society will take place in Canberra, Australia, August 24-27, 1990. The invited and contributed papers will be a mix of theory, methodology and practice with the special theme of the systematics and historical biogeography of the Austral Biota. Sessions planned include:

- (1) Molecular biology and systematics (W. Wheeler, J. West).
- (2) The use of phylogenetic information in ecological and evolutionary studies (D. Faith).
- (3) Austral flora and fauna: systematics and evolution (M. Crisp, R. Raven).
- (4) Austral biogeography (P. Ladiges, C. Humphries).
- (5) Coevolution of plant and animal groups (R.T. O'Grady).
- (6) Phylogenetic computing software (P. Weston).
- (7) Poster session (P. Cranston).

Excursions to eastern New South Wales and Queensland are planned. For suggestions, questions and preliminary registration forms for the meeting, please write to Dr Ebbe S. Nielsen, Division of Entomology, CSIRO, GPO Box 1700, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia.



20th INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS 1990

Second Notice

The 20th International Ornithological Congress will take place in Christchurch, New Zealand, on 2-9 December 1990. The Congress programme will include 6 plenary lectures, 48 symposia, contributed papers (spoken and poster), workshops, discussion groups and films. There will be a mid-Congress excursion day. Longer excursions are planned to interesting ornithological sites in New Zealand before and after the Congress. In late 1990 New Zealand will also host the 20th World Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation in Hamilton on 21-27 November 1990 and a Pacific Festival of Nature Films in Dunedin on 27 November - December 1990. Photographic and stamp exhibitions will be held in Christchurch in association with the International Ornithological Congress. Requests for the First Circular, which includes information on the above events, should be sent to:

**Dr Ben D. Bell, Secretary-General,
20th International Ornithological Congress,
Department of Zoology, Victoria University of Wellington,
Private Bag, Wellington, New Zealand
[Telex NZ30882 VUWLIB; Facsimile NZ (04) 712070]**