

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 1982

(presented for adoption at the 30th Annual General Meeting)

MEMBERSHIP

The Society accepted 17 new members and received 10 resignations during the year. In addition the death of one member was received with sincere regret. Membership at 30 June 1982 was 498. There were 152 subscribers to the Journal (63 in New Zealand and 89 overseas).

COUNCIL ACTIVITY

The Council met three times in Christchurch and seven times in Wellington. The following appointments were made by the Council: Dr M. Williams as Editor; Dr M. R. Rudge as representative to the Member Bodies' Committee of the Royal Society; Mrs H. Hughes and Dr P. Luckens as representatives to the New Zealand Committee for Water Pollution Research; and Dr C. L. McLay as Newsletter Compiler. Conveners of subcommittees were: AGM and Conference Organiser 1982, Mr J. Innes; Conference Secretary, Dr P. Luckens; Awards, Dr P. J. Moors; Conservation, Drs I. A. E. Atkinson, M. R. Rudge and Mr M. N. Foggo; Education, Mrs P. M. Williams.

EDITOR'S REPORT (M. J. Williams)

It was most encouraging to have 22 papers submitted for inclusion in Vol. 5 of the Journal, but disappointing that only eight of these had been read at the 1981 Conference. It was even more disappointing that so few of those who presented papers at Conference complied with the Society's request that they submit a resume for publication. One can only hope for greater support from those who visit the podium at the 1982 Conference at Rotorua.

Every Editor is moved to comment that papers are submitted well after deadlines have passed. So too am I. Indeed, only five papers had reached me by the clearly stated deadline of 31 December and 11 by 31 March. All potential contributors are aware that the Society endeavours to publish the Journal as close to the date of Conference as possible. Papers submitted in April and May place an unnecessary strain on the Editor's (and referee's) time and inevitably lead to delay in the Journal's publication. I hope that contributors to next year's Journal will heed, more rigidly, the established deadlines.

Finally, my task of editing Vol. 5 of the Journal has been greatly assisted by the contributions of the

referees. It is a pleasure to acknowledge their assistance.

NEWSLETTER COMPILER'S REPORT (C. L. McLay)

During 1981/82 three issues of the newsletter (Nos. 30-32) were published. These three issues covered 74 pages of the usual half A4 page format and included 69 separate items. Credit for the high standard of presentation and printing must go to the typists and printing department of the University of Canterbury. The 'Letters to the Editor' section was active with some noteworthy contributions but I feel that members do not make nearly enough contributions. The newsletter is an ideal opportunity for them to air their opinions on any subject that they believe to be important and of interest to other members and they should make more efforts in this area. A regular flow of information about Council business membership changes, A.G.M. and Conference, New Zealand population, and forthcoming Conferences was maintained.

A few of the major items covered in the Newsletter were: conservation and development, IUCN meetings in Christchurch, establishment of the Biological resources centre, energy and environment in New Zealand, river conservation, merger of NFAC and Forest & Bird Society, ocean dumping of nuclear wastes, evolution, communication among biologists, Argentine penguin conservation, and carbon dioxide and the world climate.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to pack and post the newsletter and those who indicated their interest and support for the newsletter. It can only be maintained by support from the membership which is all too often conspicuous by its absence.

REPORT OF THE MEMBER BODIES COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE (M. R. Rudge)

There are now 54 Member Bodies affiliated to the Royal Society. The Member Bodies Committee meets once each year, and its Management Committee met four times in 1981/82.

Significant matters considered were:

Scientists' study leave: 1100 replies were received to a questionnaire and these will form the basis of a report v. recommendations.

A national body to represent biological sciences: A paper distributed by the Management Committee

pointed out that there is no single body to a) look after the interests of individual biologists; b) identify and investigate areas of concern across biology as a whole; c) act as an advisory body to the Royal Society Council when the Council is required to comment on questions put to it. Meetings were arranged in Auckland and Wellington to see if this "void" was generally recognised, and, if so, what should be done. No consensus emerged, and another meeting will be held in October. A report on the Wellington meeting was circulated with Newsletter No. 33. Comments are invited.

Royal Society Award Scheme: An award scheme is proposed which will support 10-12 scientists or technicians each year on short term visits to workshops, for retraining, or to learn a specific skill. Member Bodies will be asked to levy their members to raise about \$30,000 p.a. This sum will supplement money raised from the commercial world and Government.

The Royal Society has now published its information booklet "The Royal Society of New Zealand, its structure and role". Copies are available from the Executive Officer, P.O. Box 12-249, Wellington.

CONSERVATION REPORT (M. R. Rudge, M. N. Foggo, I. A. E. Atkinson).

Comments have been made as follows:

Destruction of native frog habitat in the Motu River: The Ministry of Energy was advised that sediment release resulting from road building work was destroying *Leiopelma hochstetteri* habitat and was asked to avoid similar releases in the future.

Management plan for Buller forests: Attention was drawn to proposed non-compliance with the Indigenous Forest Policy, the inadequacy of existing and proposed reserves and requests for specific additions to the reserve areas.

Waimangu Scenic Reserve: The Crown has leased the Reserve to a private developer as a tourist attraction. It has unique floristic and geophysical values and we have asked the Department of Lands and Survey to ensure close scientific surveillance of all activity.

Polders on Lake Wairarapa: The need for this development was questioned. There is great doubt that a new shallow margin would form along the artificial shore line. Wildlife habitat and aesthetic appeal would diminish.

Inclusion of plants in the Wildlife Act: This proposal was supported as it would allow the Wildlife Service to police the poaching of rare plant taxa as well as rare animal taxa.

In addition a submission is currently in prepara-

tion on *translocation of Wapiti from Fiordland*. The importance placed on the need to protect Takahe and their habitat is endorsed even though the political decision to move Wapiti elsewhere is questionable. The first choice of a new home, (the Mt Owen/Matiri area in NW Nelson) is challenged on the basis of its rich floristic diversity.

EDUCATION REPORT (P. M. Williams)

A total of six ecological slide-tape packages for sixth and seventh form biology courses have now been completed. All have been well received in schools. Ecological energetics I, II and III, by J. Wightman and T. Mander, are the latest contributions. A further three packages are in draft and will be submitted later this year.

Following considerable publicity at the 1981 Annual Conference, several members expressed interest in contributing to this worthwhile educational project of the Society. However, no new drafts, proposals or requests for assistance have been received from Society members not previously involved in package presentation. This is a disappointing situation and Council may feel there is a need to encourage Society members to commit their particular interests and knowledge to production of a package. Financial assistance is available from grants received from J. R. McKenzie Trust and Mobil Oil and Environmental Council.

CANTERBURY GROUP REPORT (J. E. Radcliffe)

The Canterbury branch of the Ecological Society has virtually been in recession over the last year, with committee members wandering far and wide across the waters. However, plans are for a resurgence of activity this winter.

MANAWATU GROUP REPORT (P. J. Watts)

The elected committee and those who contributed to the group, were Arthur Todd, Liz Todd, Ray Zander, Ed Minot, Anne Stewart, Mike Moffat, Robert Burgess, and Don Pagel. Their assistance is gratefully acknowledged as are the contributions of Professor B. Springett and other Massey University staff members.

The theme of the year was the continuing incursion by weeds (especially *Trandescantia flumensis*) into bush remnants. This weed is troublesome only when it forms mats under medium intensity light.

The arranged programme for 1982 was:

3 March-Peter Watts, *Trandescantia*-a problem or a symptom?

13 March-Field trip to Keebles Bush, the only bush remnant in the Manawatu where livestock have always been excluded.

- 3 April-Field trip and weeding expedition to Omarupapaku (Round Bush) to remove honeysuckle vine.
- 7 April-John Skipworth, talk and slides on his recent visit to Africa.
- 17 April-Field trip to Wharite Peak and Balance Reserve.
- 1 May-Field trip to Kitchener Peak and Armadale Reserve.
- 5 May-Slide evening.
- 27 June-Field trip to beech forest remnant near Forest Hill road.
- 7 July-Dr Nelson Pomeroy, bumble bees.
- 11 July-Field trip to Kahikatea stand on road between Palmerston North and Awahuri.
- 25 July-Field trip to bush remnant, Colyton-Ashhurst region.
- 4 August-Alison Bimler, black swans.
- 8 August-Visit to bush remnant near Bulls township and lagoon at Santoft.
- 1 September-Lecture evening.
- 6 October-AGM and slide evening. Format of tape-slide and audio visual "Plastic Films and Conservation."

N.Z. COMMITTEE FOR WATER POLLUTION RESEARCH
(Mrs H. Hughes, Dr P. Luckens)

The Committee has continued its policy to encourage the holding of seminars in conjunction with member organisation conferences. These seminars have the objective of bringing together ecologists, chemists, engineers and those responsible for water management. During 1982, two such seminars have or will be held. The Microbiological Society held a seminar in May 1982 which focused on the potential pollution problems associated with micro-organisms in water. The Marine Sciences Society has agreed to a seminar on coastal pollution to be held at their Annual Conference in Wellington, August 1982. The Committee regretted that a clash with the Water Conference 1982 meant that a proposed seminar at the Ecological Society Conference on the impacts of forest processing on water had to be cancelled. However it is hoped that a seminar with the Ecological Society on a suitable topic can be arranged in the near future.

New Zealand had only one representative at this year's Conference of the International Association on Water Pollution Research. This was partly due to the venue being in South Africa. We have been informed that the International body has changed its name to the International Association on Water Pollution Research and Control.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 1981

The Annual Conference was held at Canterbury University, Christchurch on 25-28 August. Registrations totalled 155.

An informal series of discussion groups were held after registration on 25 August. The topics ranged from Kiwis (Leader, B. Reid), to National Parks and Reserves (Leader, G. McSweeney), the Biological Resources Centre (Leader, G. Park), and Education (Leader, Mrs P. Williams).

The conference symposium held on 26 August had a theme of "Exploited Populations". The programme was:

1. M. N. Clout and N. D. Barlow: Modelling of harvested possum populations.
2. R. E. Brockie: Effect of commercial hunting on the numbers of possums in Orongorongo Valley.
3. J. Jolly: Impact of hunting on possum populations.
4. T. A. Caithness: Exploitation of waterfowl on public and private waters.
5. C. Lallas: Do shags affect marine fisheries?
6. M. Williams: Exploitation of black swans.
7. B. Reid: Cassowaries as currency.
8. C. L. Hopkins: The salmon enhancement programme.
9. P. Todd: Lake Ellesmere eel populations.
10. G. D. McSweeney: Ecological and conservation status of mataijototara floodplain communities in Westland.
11. K. O'Connor: The future status of tussock grasslands.
12. General Symposium discussion.

On the morning of 27 August, a half-day symposium on conservation and development issues in New Zealand was held following the Presidential Address by Dr M. C. Crawley. Papers offered for this session were:

1. P. Simpson: An introduction to the proposal for a New Zealand conservation strategy.
2. J. Hayward: A critique of the above strategy.

A general discussion on the NZ Conservation Strategy followed.

In the afternoon, a field trip with the theme "Urban reserves, their management, development and use in education" visited several urban reserves and included magnificent views from the Port Hills and was attended by 79 people.

Contributed papers were on the closing day of Conference. The programme was as follows:

1. P. Wardle: Vegetation and microclimate in Crow Valley.
2. C. Burrows: On the theory of plant succession 1930-1980.

3. P. Simpson: The new biota: survey and comment
Concurrent Session A
- 4A.M. Powlesland: Flowering patterns in *Melicytus*.
- 5A.S. Timmins: Mapping Mt Tarawera vegetation.
- 6A.N. D. Mitchell: Problems of classifying sites in vegetation surveys.
Concurrent Session B
- 4B.G. T. Jane: Constant count: a solution to the problem of quadrat size.
- 5B.R. R. Jackson: Predatory versatility of a web. Building jumping spider from Queensland.
- 6B.S. Pollard: Mating strategy of a spider, *Clubiona*.
Poster sessions were held early in the afternoon, followed by two further concurrent sessions:
Concurrent Session C
- 7C.P. Henriques: Faunal community structure of aquatic macrophyte beds in Waitaki Lakes.
- 8C.J. Rounick: Utilisation of dissolved organic matter in streams.
- 9C.M. Tate: Commercial arrow squid as a target species of New Zealand fur seal.
Concurrent Session D
- 7D.C. Batcheler: Description and improvement of carrot bait used to kill possums.
- 8D.C. Veltman: The interaction of four social classes in a magpie (*Gymnorhina* spp.) population.
- 9D.I. McLean: Feeding association between fan-tails and saddlebacks—who benefits?

In addition a buffet meal was organised for Tuesday, 25 August and attended by 91. A most success-

ful Annual Dinner was held on Thursday, 27 August and enjoyed by 100 people.

29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 29th AGM was held at Canterbury University, Christchurch on 26 August 1981 and was attended by about 56 members.

The minutes of the 28th AGM were approved and the Annual Report for 1980/1 was accepted. Reports were received from the Treasurer, the Editor and conveners of the Subcommittees.

The meeting elected the following Officers and Councillors:

President:	Mr T. A. Caithness
Vice-President:	Dr M. R. Rudge
Secretary:	Ms J. M. Owen
Treasurer:	Dr J. P. Skipworth
Council:	Dr I. A. E. Atkinson, Dr A. E. Fitzgerald, Dr W. Q. Green, Dr P. A. Luckens, Dr N. D. Mitchell, Dr J. Ogden, Prof. B. P. Springett, Mrs P. M. Williams, Dr N. D. Barlow, Mr M. N. Foggo, Mrs M. A. Leslie, Dr I. McLean, Dr P. J. Moors, Dr R. Powlesland, Fr. G. A. Williams, Ms C. J. Veltman.

Notices of motion to increase subscription charges, and more importantly, to amend the object of the Society were carried. The object of the Society is now "to promote the study of ecology and application of ecological knowledge in all its aspects."