

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 1984

(adopted at the 32nd Annual General Meeting)

Membership

The Society accepted 9 new members and received 10 resignations during the year. Membership at 31 March 1984 was 461. There were 166 subscribers to the Journal (69 in New Zealand and 97 overseas).

Council Activity

Council met 4 times during the year. The following appointments were made by Council: Dr M. Williams, Editor; Dr M. Rudge, representative to the Member Bodies Committee of the Royal Society; Mrs M. Hughes and Dr P. Luckens as representatives to the New Zealand Committee for Water Pollution Research and Control; Drs M. McGlone and P. Williams as Newsletter Compilers. Convenors of subcommittees were: AGM and Conference Organiser 1984 Dr M. Clout; Conference Secretary Dr P. Luckens; Awards Mrs A. Fitzgerald; Conservation Dr M. Rudge; Education Mrs P. Williams.

Editor's Report (M. J. Williams)

The Journal's popularity appears to have reached a new high point with 27 manuscripts being submitted for inclusion in volume 7. Most were in a well-presented form, a state of affairs greatly appreciated by the Editor and the referees. Constraints of space meant that some papers submitted well after the annual 31 December deadline could not be accommodated in volume 7.

New means of producing the journal are being investigated in the hope that its cost can be reduced substantially. Re-appraisal of the journal's format is also being undertaken as part of the cost-cutting exercise.

Once again it is a pleasure to acknowledge the assistance of Barry Palmer at the Caxton Press, and the many referees who willingly gave of their time to assist their scientific colleagues. I also acknowledge the generosity of my employer, Wildlife Service, for allowing so much of the editorial work to be done in work time.

Newsletter Compilers' Report (M. S. McGlone and P. A. Williams)

Three issues of the Newsletter were produced this year (1983-84, Nos 36-38). There were no great changes to the format established by the previous

editor. However, we attempted to give the newsletter a little more structure, by dividing it into Society News, Environmental and Conservation News, Research News, and Notices and Conferences. We made a particular effort to obtain from Universities the nature of student projects that are underway. Botany Departments appear to be more interested in this service than Zoology Departments. Perhaps this imbalance could be corrected in the coming year. We would stress that the production of this newsletter continues to rely on the goodwill and hard work of our colleagues Kelly Duncan and Wren Green at Ham.

Report of the Royal Society Member Bodies Representative (M. R. Rudge)

Member Bodies

There are now 54 Member Bodies affiliated to the Royal Society.

A national body to represent biological societies has now been established. At first it will limit itself to distributing a Newsletter (biocom) and will then review the success of this and its future role.

Prince and Princess of Wales Science Awards Scheme

The Prince and Princess of Wales science award was inaugurated during the Royal Visit in 1983. The Ecological Society is contributing to the fund at the level of \$2 per full member in the 1984/85 financial year.

National Collections

An ad hoc committee on National Collections has prepared a report which is now under review by the Department of Internal Affairs.

Care and Use of Experimental Animals

A review of the care and use of experimental animals became, in effect, the Draft Bill to the 1983 Parliament amending the Animal Protection Act.

Nuclear War

An ad hoc committee on the effects of nuclear war has reported, and will publish a balanced discussion later this year aimed at secondary school level.

Protected Natural Areas

The May meeting of the Member Bodies Committee agreed that a standing committee be formed to advise on Protected Natural Areas and to ensure that

important areas of biological and physical interest were not overlooked.

New Zealand Committee for Water Pollution Research and Control

Representatives' Report (Mrs H. Hughes, Dr P. Luckens) The Chairman of the Committee continues to be Ecological Society's representative Mrs H. R. Hughes. Dr P. Luckens is the second delegate. Member bodies of the Committee number 21. Finances are in order but with a very small margin for operating Committee activities following subscription payment to the International Association. During 1983 the Rules were revised and a comprehensive newsletter compiled.

Committee activities included two sponsored sessions at New Zealand conferences - Waste Stabilisation Ponds at the Biotechnology Conference at Massey and Analysis and Analytical Quality Assurance as well as a session on Dissolved Oxygen at the Institute of Chemistry Conference. A student travel award was won by Miss S. L. Low from Otago University. A further activity by the Committee was consideration of the Recommendations from the NZ Water Conference 1982, in particular that,

' There is a need for further assistance or directives to encourage the better coordination of wastewater research and development and the effective dissemination of this information. Representations should therefore be made to Government for the establishment of a centralised Wastewater Treatment Research and Development organisation in New Zealand to co-ordinate activities in the municipal, industrial and agricultural sectors' .

A Research Association funded by industry, the municipalities and central government, and loosely attached to DSIR, seems an appropriate organisation. The Committee assumes that member organisations support this recommendation unless these groups tell it otherwise.

The programme planned for 1984 includes a conference session on Ocean Outfalls. In addition consideration is being given to a possible specialised international conference on waste stabilisation ponds in 1986.

Conservation Subcommittee Report (I. A. E. Atkinson, M. N. Foggo, M. R. Rudge)

Snares Island Rodent Quarantine

The subcommittee has continued to keep watch on all aspects of this issue. We have not added to the major submissions made last year.

Egmont National Park: Draft Management Plan

Mr D. Drummond provided working notes. The submissions generally praised the plan but suggested that special protective status be given to the sensitive herb field areas. (To CCL New Plymouth)

Export of Fresh Water from Deep Cove

Little environmental impact was foreseen provided the strictest precautions were taken by tankers and the shore stations. (To the Project Consultants, J. Bamford Associates, Nelson)

Gorge Hill Scientific Reserve, Southland

Dr P. Johnson provided working notes. This proposal to reserve an area of red tussock grassland was strongly supported. (To Department of Lands and Survey, Southland)

Himalayan Tahr: 1 Year Moratorium on Commercial Hunting

Drs P. Williams, C. Challies and G. McSweeney provided working notes. The moratorium is intended to provide time to prepare working party reports on the effect of Tahr. The subcommittee deplored the fact that the National Parks and Reserves Authority was not consulted on the issue even though several competent scientists sit on it. We re-iterated the danger of Tahr to the alpine flora and vegetation and asked for an extermination policy to be declared for the national parks at least. Tahr should certainly be prevented by government agencies from colonising Arthur's Pass National Park and Fiordland National Park whether or not the population was commercially attractive.

The subcommittee has this year made greater use of the expertise of the members at large. We are grateful for the responses received.

Education Subcommittee Report

(P. M. Williams)

The Science Resource Centre reports that the eight ecological slide-tape packages supplied by Ecological Society are being well used by F6 and F7 biology students. In addition we have our first video-package 'The Pukeko, a Communal Breeder' produced by J. L. Craig and M. Veke. Three further slide-tape

packages are in draft form. We look forward to more contributors contacting us in the near future.

Manawatu Group Report

(R. A. Fordham)

The committee elected at the AGM in September 1983 comprised Robin Fordham (Chairman), Kathy Rankin (Treasurer), Heather Outred, Ray Zander, Peter Watts, Neil Gilchrist, Andrew Dick and Don Pagel.

The group comprised about 12 financial members, and meetings held or arranged between March and July 1984 mostly concerned forest ecology - those between March and May attracting 22, 8 and 40 people respectively. Topics discussed or advertised include:

March - Mark Vickers: Radiography of tuarara on Stephens I.

April - Brendan Spring: The future and past of Ballance Bush

May - Margot Forde: Multiple use of Ruahine Forest Park

June - Cynthia Lees: Ruahine forest history from pollens

July - Andrew Dick: The rat problem on Kapiti I.

August - John Mitchell: Diet of goats on Mt Egmont

31 st Annual General Meeting

The 31st Annual General Meeting was held in Auckland, 18 August 1984 and was attended by 54 members.

The minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting were approved and the Annual Report for 1982/83 was accepted. A report was received from the Treasurer on financial matters. The meeting elected the following officers and councillors:

President Dr M. R. Rudge

Vice-President Dr I. A. E. Atkinson

Secretary Ms J. M. Owen

Treasurer Dr J. P. Skipworth

Council:

C. J. Veltman

M. N. Clout

R. H. Taylor

A. S. W. Penniket

P. Luckens

W. Q. Green

J. Leathwick

P. M. Williams

B. P. Springett

M. A. Leslie

A. E. Fitzgerald

J. L. Craig

N. D. Mitchell

J. Ogden

R. M. Sadleir

Notices of motion bringing the end of the financial year to 31 March in each year, expressing opposition to the proposed development of Henderson Island and conveying the Society's views on this matter to the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, were put and carried.