

CONFERENCE 1965

About sixty members of the Society attended its annual conference which was held from 19-22 August, 1965, at the Massey University of Manawatu.

The following contributed papers were presented on the first day:

"Some observations on the ecology of *Candida albicans*, a potential mammalian pathogen"
Mary J. Marples

"The quantitative description of bryophyte communities" G. A. M. Scott

"Interpretation of ecological data by path analysis"
D. Scott

"Aspects of the habitats of saddlebacks on Hen Island" I. A. E. Atkinson and D. J. Campbell

"Trends in foraging activity in hedgehogs"
P. F. Jenkins

"Diving rhythms of some New Zealand shags"
B. Stonehouse

"Factors of mull and mor development in temperate grasslands" Beryl C. Barratt

"Dry spells and droughts in New Zealand as a factor of significance for plant growth"
J. D. Coulter

"The effects of fire on narrow-leaved snow tussock, *Chionochloa rigida* Zotov" A. F. Mark

A buffet dinner and informal social gathering was held at 6 p.m., after which the President, Professor G. T. S. Baylis, delivered a light-hearted address entitled "Some ecological comparisons", illustrated with coloured slides depicting different classes of vegetation around the world.

The full-day symposium on Friday covered "Processes within pasture and crop ecosystems". The topics and speakers were: "Crop structure" (K. J. Mitchell); "Grass growth and light utilisation" (R. W. Brougham); "Soil nutrients cycling" (R. B. Miller); "Soil and chemical intake by sheep" (W. D. Healy); "Effect of earthworms on pasture" (S. M. J. Stockdill); "The fauna of grassland soils with special reference to the micro-arthropods" (T. Wood); "Effects of grass grub infestation on pasture" (P. G. Fenemore); "Some effects of weather on aphids in crops and pasture in Canterbury" (A. D. Lowe). Dr. N. H. Taylor chaired the symposium and summed up after the general discussion.

Thirty-four members attended the excursion on the Saturday to Totara Reserve, Pohangina Valley. Stops were made for talks and discussions at a Grasslands Division paddock, a site overlooking the Manawatu Gorge and several forests within the Totara Reserve.

The Thirteenth Annual General Meeting was held in the main lecture theatre at the Massey University of Manawatu. The President, Professor G. T. S. Baylis chaired the meeting at which some 50 members of the Society were present.

The minutes of the previous A.G.M. were confirmed and the annual report and statement of accounts were adopted. The Officers elected were: President, Prof. G. T. S. Baylis; Vice-President, I. A. E. Atkinson; Hon. Secretary, Dr. G. W. Gibbs; Hon. Treasurer, C. L. Hopkins.

Prof. G. T. S. Baylis reported that affiliation with the Royal Society of New Zealand was now a reality.

Mr. I. A. E. Atkinson said that a report of the status of birds on offshore islands had been submitted to the Nature Conservation Council and to the Fauna Protection Advisory Council. Negotiations were made to secure reserves at Cape Turakirae and Seaward Moss. The Te Anau wilderness area was also reserved this year. The meeting discussed the Society's policy and position in regard to the reservation of land areas and passed a motion recommending that the Council prepare a statement of conservation policy and publicise it if it sees fit.

Dr. K. E. Lee was nominated as an Honorary Life Member. The President said Dr. Lee was one of the foundation stones of the Society. The motion which was moved by the President and seconded by Dr. P. C. Bull, was carried with acclamation.

At the invitation of the Council, Mr. K. Woodward gave a brief outline of the revision of school biology courses at present being carried out by the Department of Education. The new courses are based on the ecological approach.

The Meeting agreed to donate £10 to the Cockayne Memorial Lecture Fund.

The President suggested a shift of Council. The Meeting agreed to hold the next conference in Christchurch and to consider transferring the Council from Wellington to Christchurch.

The President closed the meeting by expressing his thanks to the past Officers and Council and to Dr. J. A. Gibb as Editor of the Proceedings. Prof. Baylis also thanked Dr. D. Scott and Mr. A. E. Esler for their efficient organisation of this conference.