

CONFERENCE 1970

The Nineteenth Annual Conference was held at Lincoln College, Canterbury, 27-29 August 1970. Eighty-four members attended the Conference and visitors increased the attendance to approximately 150 over all sessions.

Eighteen papers were delivered and several impressive displays were on view. Appreciable newspaper and television coverage was attracted, though the unavoidable absence of the Hon. Duncan MacIntyre militated against wider television coverage. On the Wednesday evening at Canterbury University, many members attended a joint meeting with the New Zealand Geographical Society (Inc.), and on Saturday 38 members travelled on an informative excursion around the perimeter of Christchurch.

The eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in Lecture Room 1, Hilgendorf, Lincoln College on the Thursday evening, 27 August. Under the chairmanship of Mr. K. H. Miers, the retiring President, 44 members discussed and adopted the Annual Report, Accounts and Balance Sheet. The Council continues its activities in the field of conservation of native communities and wilderness areas, and Dr. P. Wardle, Chairman of the Conservation Sub-Committee reported that the Society's submission to the Commission of Inquiry on Lake Manapouri had been submitted on 8 August.

Dr. G. R. Williams, Editor of *Proceedings*, surveyed the growth of the journal during the five years of his editorship, and in relinquishing his duties he conveyed his thanks for the honour of this appointment.

Dr. J. A. Gibb gave a report on the structure, growth and activities of the Member Bodies Committee of the Royal Society of New Zealand. The recently formed Executive Member Bodies Committee meets twice a year. Dr. Gibb further reported on entries for the Secondary School Science Awards. A sub-committee now previews TV science programmes and a good standard has been maintained in the "World of Science" radio programmes. The Centennial Appeal has reached \$218,000.

Professor G. A. Knox spoke about the changed rulings of Intecol with respect to affiliated societies. The annual affiliation fee is now \$40, which to this Society compares more favourably than the previous charge per member. Professor Knox outlined the history and present activities of Intecol in the hope that the meeting would consider affiliation. Following favourable discussion, a motion that the society seeks to affiliate with Intecol was carried unanimously.

Mr. Miers referred to anomalies in the present constitution of the Society and three amendments to the rules were carried:

Rule 3(e) Any member of the Society may resign by giving notice in writing to the Secretary and paying all subscriptions due; provided that any member giving such notice before **31 July** shall not be liable to pay the subscription for that year.

Rule 5 The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer (or a Secretary-Treasurer), an Editor, a ROYAL SOCIETY MEMBER BODIES REPRESENTATIVE, and an Honorary Auditor . . .

Rule 6(b) The Editor and ROYAL SOCIETY MEMBER BODIES REPRESENTATIVE shall be appointed by the Council each year.

The meeting elected Dr. P. Wardle as President and Dr. G. R. Williams as Vice-President for the year 1970-71. Dr. E. G. White was re-elected as Secretary, and Mr. I. M. Ritchie as Treasurer. Doctor V. Burrows, Dr. R. A. Fordham, Dr. J. Ogden, Dr. G. T. Daly, Dr. D. Scott, Mr. R. H. Taylor, Mr. A. H. C. Christie and Dr. J. R. Bray were elected as members of Council. It was recommended that the 1971 Conference be held in Wellington.

In matters of general business, Mr. Batcheler raised the question of the need of an honorarium for the treasurer. A motion that the incoming Council should consider an honorarium for the treasurer was carried unanimously.

Dr. C. J. Burrows commended Council for its efforts in relation to the Physical Environment Conference. Professor Knox moved a vote of appreciation to the outgoing President, Mr. Miers, for his two years of service, and Dr. Mason moved that a letter of appreciation be written to the retiring Editor of *Proceedings*, Dr. G. R. Williams.

The Lincoln College Conference was undoubtedly a success and much enjoyed by all who attended. Its success was due largely to the efforts of Dr. P. Wardle and his sub-committee.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 27 August

"Plant productivity and micro-environments in the high alpine zone of Rock and Pillar Range, Central Otago"

Dr. L. C. Bliss and Dr. A. F. Mark

"The effectiveness, in time, of some herbaceous species for montane revegetation" Mr. G. A. Dunbar.

"River Regimes and river red gum regeneration in River Murray lowlands" Dr. G. R. Cochrane

"Aspects of the dynamics of a hydrosere"

Dr. J. Ogden

"Diagnosing the effects of air pollution on higher plants" Dr. G. T. Daly

"Group selection in *Trichosurus vulpecula* (Marsupialia)" Mr. R. T. Kean

"Mice, food and aggression" Dr. R. A. Fordham

"Bogs in the Manapouri-Te Anau area"

Dr. C. J. Burrows

"Molesworth over 25 years" Dr. L. B. Moore

Friday, 28 August

The Urban Community and Natural Resources

Chairman: Dr. M. M. Burns.

- Opening Address Hon. Duncan MacIntyre
- “Community attitudes towards natural resources”
Dr. T. O’Riordan
- “The City and natural communities”
Dr. G. R. Williams
- “Population pressure and the physical and cultural evolution of modern man” Dr. R. S. Bigelow
- “Rural and Urban Planning” Mr. J. D. O’Brien
- “Possibilities and problems for nature conservation in closely settled areas” Dr. B. P. J. Molloy
- “Pest control and the community”
Mr. J. M. Kelsey
- “Water and the community — a problem in landscape ecology” Mr. H. E. Connor
- “The atmosphere” Dr. J. R. Bray
- Chairman’s summing up and general discussion.

Saturday, 30 August

Field Excursion

Thirty-eight members travelled by bus around the perimeter of Christchurch to relate the previous day’s symposium to an urban community and its natural resources. In the lower Heathcote River black oil-slicks in midstream and a crude oil coating six feet up the riverbanks, due to an accidental industrial spillage the previous evening, spoke for itself of first degree pollution. The Bromley oxidation ponds were next visited and the tidal mudflats examined, particularly in relation to urban planning problems. The question of conservation of river communities in a city was then confronted while visiting remnant areas of saltmarsh vegetation and freshwater swamp on the Avon River. At Spencer Park, the scope of current inter-disciplinary regional planning was highly impressive and the protection so far afforded the wildlife on Brooklands Lagoon was encouraging. On a different scale of endeavour, the creation of a man-made wildlife sanctuary from the dredged alluvial deposits of the Canterbury Plains could not be more inspiring than on the property of Mr. and Mrs. N. Isaac, whose grandiose plans and efforts could hardly be bettered elsewhere in New Zealand. It was perhaps significant that close by, behind Christchurch Airport, the excursion ended on a native grassland community scarcely modified by man.