

On Sunday, members were taken in a fleet of Land Rovers to Cape Turakirae to see remnants of a raised beach series and up the Orongorongo River to the field station of the Ecology Division of DSIR.

Annual General Meeting 1970

The 19th Annual General Meeting was held on 21 August at 7 p.m. in the LBI Lecture theatre at Victoria University, and was attended by 58 members. The annual report and financial statement were adopted. The Editor, Mr. I. G. Crook, asked for comments on editorial policy and received none. Dr J. Gibb, representative to the Member Bodies Committee of the Royal Society, reviewed the activities of that committee and drew special attention to the 12th Science Congress in 1972 and the new Royal Society Committee on Problems of the Environment.

The meeting took pleasure in conferring honorary life membership of the Society on the eminent botanist Mr N. Elder.

Dr P. Wardle was re-elected as President and, Dr G. R. Williams, M. N. Foggo and Dr M. R. Rudge were elected Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Field Excursion

On a fine, sunny day a fleet of 15 Land Rovers took a party of 65 people from Wellington to Cape Turakirae and then up the Orongorongo river to the field station of Ecology Division, DSIR. A detailed excursion guide had been prepared for the route. At Cape Turakirae the remains of the raised beach system was demonstrated amidst the destruction wrought by the removal of boulders for land reclamation in Wellington Harbour. Two scientific reserves were pointed out and the vegetation and geology described by Dr Bagnal and Dr G. Stevens. At the Orongorongo field station the party heard an introductory address on general features of the area and then moved freely among a series of displays demonstrating the research in progress. Scientists were present to explain their projects.

Attendance at this mid-Conference excursion was higher than is normally the case when excursions occupy the last day. It was generally considered a pleasant and successful day.

M. R. RUDGE, Hon. Secretary.

REPORT OF THE CONSERVATION SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 1972

Ecological Guidelines for Engineers

The ecological considerations relevant to engineering projects was the theme of the 1971 conference. The Council's thoughts of how these might be set down as guidelines for engineers were presented as a paper by the Convener of the Conservation Subcommittee. Engineer's are becoming more aware of environmental issues and there has been some reaction to our suggestions, but insufficient to warrant further work at this stage.

Mining Bill

Last year the Society made strong representation to the appropriate Ministers on the draft version of the Mining Bill. We conceded that the Bill had clauses designed to safeguard conservation interests, but that these appeared to be nullified by others giving undue legal and tactical advantages to mining interests, e.g. only one month for objections; or that the Minister of Mines had final say without appeal. The representations were without avail.

Effect of Road Building Activities

Members have a continuing concern on the effects of road building activities on faunal and floral communities. Because information on proposed work is often unavailable or fragmentary, we are generally unable to discern whether any distinctive biological features

of an area have been taken into account in planned road work. Accordingly an approach has been made to the National Roads Board to see whether certain standard ecological considerations could be built into the decision making process.

Poor Knights Islands

The Society, along with other groups, has expressed concern to the Minister of Lands of the possibilities of oil prospecting in the immediate vicinity of the islands.

CoEnCo

Following the 'Save Manapouri' campaign there was a feeling among many conservation groups of the need for some form of federation that could express a unified opinion. Discussion took place between groups with the eventual establishment in March of the 'New Zealand Conference on the Environment and Conservation'. The Society has joined, though it expressed concern at the classes of membership available, particularly as it might affect groups who had the technical knowledge on which sound policy should be based.

Black Rock Reserve—Dunedin

A Reserve has been gazetted by the Minister of Lands. Dr A. F. Mark must take a good part of the credit for this new reserve.

D. SCOTT, Convener.