

PRESERVATION OF UNIQUE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Some details of cases submitted to the Nature Conservation Council by the Society were given in Proceedings No. 11, 1964. The present position (5 May 1965) with these cases is as follows.

1. *Kerr Point shrubland* (near North Cape).
An area of 1687 acres including the Kerr Point shrubland has been declared a scenic reserve. Mining of serpentine at Kerr Point is continuing.
2. *Mixed coastal forest at Unuwahao* (near North Cape)*.
More botanical information is needed before the case can proceed.
3. *Kauri forest at Te Paki**.
Negotiations are proceeding but more information is needed.
4. *Moana tuatua peat bog* (Rukuhia).
A reserve of over 100 acres has recently been created for scientific purposes. This is in large

part the result of submissions by Mr. F. B. Thompson through the Department of Agriculture.

5. *Chatham Island communities**.

This case is held up until information concerning the exact location of proposed reserves is collected. It was incorrectly stated in Proceedings No. 11 that Little Mangare Island of the Chathams group is a sanctuary. In fact it is Maori freehold land.

6. *Mt. Tarawera communities*.

The scenic, scientific and historical features of this mountain are well known. In April, 1964, the Society submitted a case for preserving parts of the upper slopes and chasm as a scenic and scientific reserve. Negotiations are proceeding.

* Council would appreciate assistance from any biologist visiting these areas.

CONFERENCE 1964

The Society's annual conference was held from Thursday to Saturday, 20-22 August, 1964, at Lincoln College. Sixty-seven people enrolled.

The first day was devoted to the following contributed papers:

- "Marine birds and mammals in the Kaikoura region" B. Stonehouse.
- "The effect of some environmental factors on the breeding behaviour of Adelie penguins at Cape Hallet, Antarctica" H. J. Cranfield.
- "An analysis of two marked bird populations by various methods, including a stochastic one" G. R. Williams.
- "Winter ecology of the partridge (*Perdix perdix*) in the Canadian Prairie" K. Westerskov.
- "The ecological role of nitrogen fixing organisms in nature and man-made grasslands" T. W. Walker.
- "Plant succession and soil formation at the retreating Franz Josef Glacier" P. R. Stevens.
- "A suggested classification of the New Zealand podocarp forest at the plant formation level" J. W. Dawson.
- "Opossums in pastoral land" D. P. Gilmore.
- "Population studies on the Weddell Seal (*Leptonychotes weddelli*) in McMurdo Sound, Antarctica" M. Smith.

An outstanding buffet dinner was held in the Refectory Hall at 5 p.m. Following this we were privileged to hear an extremely interesting talk by Prof. H. N. Southern (Bureau of Animal Population, Oxford) on African animals and polymorphism in birds, and to see his slides.

The symposium on "The Ecology of the Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand" occupied all Friday. Dr. R. A. Falla, chairman, introduced the symposium and Prof. G. A. Knox summed up. Topics and speakers were: "Meteorology" (J. E. Lisle), "Vegetation" (E. J. Godley), "Weevil fauna" (G. Kuschel), "Birds and mammals" (R. A. Falla), "Marine zoology and oceanography" (E. W. Dawson) and "The Subantarctic islands; past, present and future" (G. A. Knox).

On the Saturday, in good weather, some 40 members visited Lake Ellesmere. Commentaries by a number of people en route, together with excellent descriptive

notes, made the excursion extremely interesting and informative. The Society is indebted to Miss Ruth Mason and her helpers for making all necessary arrangements and for leading the trip.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Twelfth Annual General Meeting was held in the Memorial Hall, Lincoln College, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 21 August, 1964. The President, Dr. K. E. Lee, took the chair. Approximately 55 members were present.

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed, and the annual report and statement of accounts were adopted. The officers elected were: President, Prof. G. T. S. Baylis; Vice-President, Dr. P. C. Bull; Hon. Secretary, P. R. Wilson; Hon. Treasurer, C. L. Hopkins.

Mr. I. A. E. Atkinson reported that four submissions for preserving indigenous communities had been submitted to the Nature Conservation Council; 1600 acres, including Kerr Point had been made a scenic reserve; over 100 acres of Moana Tuatua bog were reserved; and a case had been submitted to reserve the summit of Mt. Tarawera. Mr. C. L. Hopkins had joined the Conservation Committee to gather information on fresh water biology.

At Council's invitation, Dr. C. A. Fleming commented on the implications of the Society's proposed affiliation with the Royal Society of New Zealand. He stressed that the main advantage was that our Society would have a voice in the development of science in New Zealand. The motion proposed by Dr. K. E. Lee and seconded by Dr. L. B. Moore, that the Ecological Society apply to the Royal Society for member body status, was passed.

A vote of thanks was passed to Prof. R. H. M. Langer, chairman of the local committee, and his assistants for their energetic and efficient organisation of the conference which contributed greatly to its success.

Following the formal business, Mr. G. M. Turner and Prof. G. A. Knox showed their excellent colour films on the Auckland Islands.