

## CONFERENCE, 1966

About 90 members and interested visitors attended the Annual Conference held on the 25-27 August at the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch. The following contributed papers were presented on the first day:

"Birds and aircraft: A problem on some New Zealand airfields"

T. A. Caithness, M. J. Williams and R. M. Bull

"Some features of recent research on the takahe (*Notornis mantelli*)" ..... B. E. Reid

"Preliminary sampling plans for grass grub (*Costelytra zealandica*, White), Porina caterpillar (*Wiseana cervinata* (Wlk) and Argentine stem weevil (*Hyperodes bonariensis*, Kuschel)." .....

R. P. Pottinger

"Observations on the breeding behaviour of pukeko (*Porphyrio melanotus*)" ..... G. A. Tunnicliffe

"An investigation of microclimate and erosion processes at Cass in the Southern Alps"

Jane M. Soons

"Vegetation of a glacial moraine" ..... G. A. M. Scott

"Ordination of grassland and related communities in Otago" ..... G. T. Daly

"Territorialism and its significance in the opossum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*, Marsupialia)" .....

R. I. Kean

"The capture and marking of red deer"

R. I. Taylor

A well-illustrated address entitled "The Three Kings Islands" was given by the President, Professor G. T. S. Baylis, to a convivial gathering at Helen Connon Hall. A buffet dinner and social gathering followed sometime after the cocktail hour.

A full-day symposium on "High Altitude Ecology" was held on the second day. Chaired by Mr. J. T. Holloway, this symposium consisted of the following papers:

"Mountain climate" ..... J. D. Coulter

"Classification and physical properties of screes in the Craigieburn Range" ..... C. O'Loughlin

"Progress in the study of South Island alpine vegetation" ..... C. J. Burrows

"Some ecological aspects of revegetation of eroded Kaikouran soil at Black Birch Range, Marlborough" K. F. O'Connor and N. C. Lambrechtsen

"Experiments concerning causes of timber line—A progress report" ..... P. Wardle

"Preliminary observations of alpine grasshoppers in a habitat modified by deer and chamois"

C. L. Batcheler

"The sensitivity of chamois and red deer to temperature fluctuations" ..... A. H. C. Christie

"Hare numbers and diet in an alpine basin in New Zealand" ..... J. E. C. Flux

A lively general discussion and summing-up ended the symposium.

More than fifty members took part in the Saturday excursion to Arthur's Pass National Park. Commentary on current research, vegetation, animals and natural features in the Waimakiriri Catchment was given on the special railcar as it travelled to Arthur's Pass.

The fourteenth Annual General Meeting was held in the Canterbury Museum Lecture Hall at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 26 August. The President, Professor G. T. S. Baylis, chaired the meeting at which some 40 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 meeting favoured a move of Council headquarters. It also suggested Nelson or Napier as the venue for the 1967 Conference and A.G.M.

In the absence of Mr. Atkinson, the President reported briefly on the action of Council concerning the proposal to prospect for copper on the Hen and Chicken Islands. A statement had been made to the Minister of Lands which would, it was hoped, make the right impact. The President noted that the Royal Society had not re-elected a Conservation Sub-committee leaving the Ecological Society to serve this role as a Member Body.

The meeting discussed the present position on the proposed reserve at Cape Turakirae and the Society's contact with the Nature Conservation Council.

Considerable discussion occurred on the Society's Statement on Conservation Policy. After minor amendment the Policy was adopted unanimously.

The Editor, Dr. G. R. Williams, reported that the *Proceedings* could be published without advertisements. *Proceedings* No. 13 was larger than usual, reflecting credit on authors and printer. The Editor was happy to receive ecological papers not presented at Conference. Dr. Williams was thanked by acclamation for his services to the Society.

Dr. J. A. Gibb, Royal Society Member Bodies' Committee representative, reported to the meeting. The coming Centennial Appeal for Royal Society House was introduced. The project will provide library facilities and meeting rooms for affiliated Societies.

Dr. Gibb was accorded a vote of thanks for his service as Royal Society representative.

Notices of motion for amendments to the Rules of the Ecological Society were made as follows:

The following sentence be added to rule 4(a):

"When both husband and wife join the Society, on request only one subscription shall be remitted and one copy of the *Proceedings* supplied."

Item 6(f) amended to read "The Council shall have the power to appoint members of the Society to fill any casual vacancies and to co-opt additional Councillors if the need arises."

The meeting resolved to hold the 1968 Conference as usual in August despite the 40th A.N.Z.A.A.S. Congress to be held in Christchurch in January 1968.

Professor G. Knox introduced the aims of the International Biological Programme and the proposed Section of Ecology in the International Union of Biological Sciences. Dr. Lucy Moore felt that the Society should reply to inform I.U.B.S. of its existence, membership and aims.

Professor Baylis commented on the matter of distinguished visitors and the desirability of inviting a distinguished scientist to the Annual Conference.

The President moved a vote of thanks to Mr. J. T. Holloway for chairing the symposium; to members of the Conference Committee, Dr. B. Stonehouse, Miss R. Mason and Mr. C. J. Burrows for their efforts in organising Conference 1966; and to the Council in general and the outgoing Secretary, Dr. G. W. Gibbs, and Treasurer, Mr. C. L. Hopkins, in particular. The vote was carried with acclamation.

Officers elected for the 1966/67 year were: President, Dr. J. A. Gibb; Vice-President, Dr. B. Stonehouse; Hon. Secretary, Dr. G. T. Daly; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. I. M. Ritchie. The records and official address of the Society would move to Christchurch.

The meeting showed its appreciation of the Presidency of Professor G. T. S. Baylis by acclamation.