

CONFERENCE, 1967

The sixteenth Annual Conference, held at Nelson Girls' College on 24–26 August, was attended by some 60 members and 40 visitors. On Thursday, the President, Dr. J. A. Gibb gave an address entitled "The evolution of reproductive rates — are there no rules?" Other papers read on Thursday morning were:

"Research on goats" — Dr. M. R. Rudge.

"Research on opossums" — Dr. M. C. Crawley.

Contributed papers presented on Thursday afternoon under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. Stonehouse were:

"Quantitative variation in absorption roots of Scots pine and European beech in a natural succession in France" — Dr. P. R. McQueen.

"Factors controlling flowering in four species of *Chionochloa*" — Dr. A. F. Mark.

"Ecology and its role in control of problem animals" — Mr. C. L. Batcheler.

"A sympatric population of skinks and geckos" — Dr. T. S. Choate.

"Ecological aspects of early development in the common whitebait" — Dr. Vivienne Burrows.

"Spectral analysis of light reflected and transmitted by various vegetations" — Dr. D. Scott, Mr. P. H. Minalda, Dr. R. W. Brougham and Dr. J. K. Mitchell.

"The use of subfossil charcoals in ecological studies" — Dr. B. P. J. Molloy.

A well-attended social gathering was expertly catered for at the buffet dinner held during the evening. Dr. Charles Watt, at very short notice, gave an excellent illustrated address on the Ornithological Society's Kermadec Islands Expedition.

On Friday morning a Symposium, chaired by Dr. R. A. Cumber, on "Ecological Approaches to Insect Pest Control" consisted of the following papers:

"Insects and their environment" — Mr. E. W. Valentine.

"Entomological problems in New Zealand forests" — Mr. R. Zondag.

"Control of pasture pests" — Mr. R. J. B. Power.

"Integrated control approach to horticultural and orchard pests" — Dr. E. Collyer.

"Biological control of weeds" — Mr. B. B. Given.

The morning ended with a summary by the Chairman and a general discussion.

In the afternoon four papers were presented in a Symposium on "Nutritional Aspects of Exotic Forestry in New Zealand", chaired by Professor G. T. S. Baylis:

"Growing exotic forests in New Zealand" — Mr. J. Slow.

"The pedological basis of nutrition in forests" — Mr. E. J. B. Cutler.

"Mineral nutrition of *Pinus radiata* in relation to mycorrhiza" — Professor T. M. Morrison.

"The cycling of nutrients in stands of *Pinus radiata*" — Mr. G. M. Will.

The afternoon was rounded off by a useful discussion.

About forty members took part in a field excursion on Saturday to Baigents and Golden Downs Forests, Motueka Valley and the Appleby Research Orchard.

The fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 25 August. The President, Dr. J. A. Gibb, chaired the meeting at which 45 members were present.

The minutes of the previous A.G.M. were confirmed and the annual report and audited statement of accounts adopted.

The Secretary read a brief report from the Editor, Dr. G. R. Williams, who stated that the *Proceedings* would benefit from the publication of contributed papers as well as those presented at the annual conference.

A lively discussion followed about the future of the *Proceedings* and it was resolved that the incoming Council review editorial policy with the view to encouraging contributed papers.

The meeting agreed that *Proceedings* No. 14 was exceptionally good and the editor was thanked by acclamation for successfully carrying out his onerous task.

The representative on Royal Society Member Bodies Committee, Dr. J. A. Gibb, reported on meetings over the past year. Matters of interest to the Society were the Royal Society newsletter, the Centennial celebrations, the appeal for funds for Royal Society House and the Royal Society's role in promoting conservation of natural resources.

Dr. Gibb was thanked for his services and reappointed as Ecological Society representative for another year.

Miss Ruth Mason presented the annual report on conservation. The Society had been active on a number of problems including:

- (1) Tourist trips to subantarctic islands.
- (2) Chairlifts in the Mt. Cook National Park.
- (3) Moanatuatua peatlands reservation.

Miss Mason read the draft of a letter concerning tourism in the subantarctic islands. Intense discussion followed on this complex problem. It was decided that the draft letter on the subject to the Minister of Lands be passed to Council for amendment in the light of points raised in the discussion before being sent on.

The meeting then discussed other matters concerning conservation in New Zealand:

- (1) Mr. K. H. Miers described the Scenic Reserves Advisory Committee of which he and Mr. G. Kelly are members.
- (2) Recommendations by the Ecological Society for native reserves had been successful in the cases of North Cape Scenic Reserve, Awarua Bog Reserve and a red tussock reserve in Southland.
- (3) Dr. C. Watt reported that patches of bush on Te Pahi Station, North Cape, were being grazed, so threatening rare insect species confined to the area.

- (4) Dr. L. Moore outlined the duties of Mr. G. Kelly of the Botany Division in investigating present scenic reserves and such areas as Dr. Watt had mentioned as possible future reserves.
- (5) Dr. Ramsay reported on the need for conservation on the Chatham Islands.

The Chairman commented that the Ecological Society Conservation Subcommittee is assisted greatly by full reports from people who have been to reserves and places worth reserving.

A vote of thanks to Miss Mason, Dr. Wardle and Mr. G. Kelly was passed by acclamation.

The following motions to change the rules of the Society, for which due notice had been given, were passed unanimously:

- (i) That the first sentence of Rule 3 (c) should be changed to read "Only a full-time bona fide student proceeding to an academic qualification up to and including the Ph.D. degree shall be eligible for student membership . . .".
- (ii) That item 7 (d) be amended to read "The financial year of the Society shall end on the 30th June in each year."

The Chairman invoked Rule 8 (c) in order that urgent rule changes might be voted on at the meeting. Members voted unanimously that the motions to amend the price of the *Proceedings* and the annual subscriptions be put to the meeting.

Mr. I. M. Ritchie, the Treasurer, described the need for the increases and the motions were put and carried unanimously. These were:

- (i) That rule 4 (a) be amended to read: "The annual subscription shall be \$3.00 for full members and \$2.00 for student members, or such other sums as any annual general meeting or special general meeting shall from time to time decide."
- (ii) "That this meeting recommends to the incoming Council that the price of the *Proceedings* be increased to \$4.00 for non-members."

The meeting recommended that Conference 1968 be held in August at Auckland and that Council consider a co-ordinated meeting with the Genetical and Microbiological Societies.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to —

- (1) The Nelson Conference Organising Committee of Dr. Hoy, Dr. Ramsay, Mr. Valentine, Mr. Fenemore and Mr. Dugdale, for their successful efforts.
- (2) The Nelson College for Girls Board of Governors, the Principal, the Matron and particularly to Miss Washbourn for her excellent catering.

The vote was carried by acclamation.