

CONFERENCE 1969

The Otago Museum, Dunedin, was the venue for the Eighteenth Annual Conference, 28–30 August 1969. At least 120 members and visitors enjoyed a well-organised and varied programme.

Apart from some minor problems, the grouping of papers originally intended for a symposium, into a number of themes was successful.

The Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Auditorium of the Museum on the Thursday evening, 28 August. With the President, Mr. K. H. Miers, as chairman 66 members discussed and adopted the Annual Report, Accounts and Balance Sheet. The Council continues to be active in problems of the conservation and maintenance of native communities and wilderness areas. The financial position of the Society is firmly based and membership is growing steadily towards 350.

Dr. G. R. Williams, Editor of Proceedings, reported that numbers of contributed papers were increasing. He added that in its 16 years the Proceedings had grown from a modest journal of 24 pages to one of 88 pages containing 15 articles of good quality.

Dr. J. A. Gibb gave a report on activities of the Member Bodies Committee of the Royal Society of New Zealand on which he represents the Ecological Society. Dr. Gibb also represents the Member Bodies Committee on the Royal Society Council and is a member of its Conservation Committee.

The Royal Society Centennial appeal has passed the \$200,000 mark. Members voted to donate \$100 to the appeal. A discussion on priorities for use of Society finance was followed by the meeting giving authority to the Council to pay for such secretarial assistance as may be considered necessary.

Professor G. Knox spoke about Intecol, the new international ecological association of which he is a council member. Reference was made to the insularity of New Zealand and the need for participation in the application of ecology to conservation of the world's natural resources. After discussion the Chairman considered the meeting should not vote on Society membership in Intecol. In summary, the Society, although sympathetic to its aims, could not justify the cost of formal membership. Individual members were encouraged to join, as might the Society some time in the future.

After a valuable discussion a motion by Mr. L. C. Batcheler to amend the rules of the Society relating to its objects and activities was lost.

The meeting re-elected Mr. K. H. Miers as President for 1969–70 and Dr. A. F. Mark, Vice-President. It recommended that the 1970 Conference be held in Christchurch.

In matters of general business Dr. D. Scott referred to the Physical Environment Committee of the National

Development Conference and felt the incoming Council might well take part in its activities and make submissions. Dr. C. J. Burrows encouraged the Council to change the form of future conferences to enable more active discussion, e.g. by pre-printing and circulating papers to those attending.

The quality of the accommodation at the new University College and the Friday evening buffet dinner-social contributed directly to the success of the Conference.

On Saturday an informative excursion was held to Lake Mahinerangi and the Waipori Gorge. The activities observed included tussock grassland development, exotic forestry, fish, birds, soils and hydro-electric power generation in an area of native forest.

From all accounts Conference 1969 in Dunedin was a great success. Much of the credit must be given to the local organisers, Drs. A. F. Mark and K. E. Westerskov, who received assistance from a number of people in the Botany and Zoology departments of Otago University.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 28 August

Ecology of Man

Chairman: Dr. P. Wardle

"The Original Ecology of Mankind"

Dr. J. S. Bullivant

"Air Pollution in the Christchurch metropolitan district"

Mr. D. R. Pullen

"Lichens and bryophytes as indicators of air pollution in Christchurch"

Dr. G. T. Daly

Grasslands — Ecology and Management

Chairman: Dr. A. F. Mark

"Plant tiller density as affected by competition in pasture mixture"

Dr. W. Harris

"Seeding native tussock species in high altitude revegetation trials"

Mr. G. A. Dunbar

"The Cockayne plots of Central Otago"

Mr. J. A. Douglas

"Grazing management — analysis and illustration"

Dr. K. F. O'Connor

"Plant population structure and productivity"

Mr. J. Ogden

"Productivity or Stability?"

Dr. D. Scott

Animal Influences in Forest and Mountain Lands

Chairman: Professor G. T. S. Baylis

"Pattern of land use in Westland National Park"

Mr. G. Rennison

"Structural deterioration in silver beech, Tararua range"

Mr. G. N. Park

"Some influences of introduced browsing mammals on the composition of indigenous forests"

Mr. J. A. Wardle

"Diet of deer and chamois in an alpine area"

Mr. A. H. C. Christie

Friday, 29 August

Ecological Techniques

- Chairman: Dr. G. R. Williams
 "The use of aerial colour and false-colour photography in bushfire ecology" Dr. G. R. Cochrane
 "Mark-recapture studies of alpine grasshoppers" Dr. E. G. White
 "Recent work in estimating density from a systematic sample of distances to the nearest entity" Mr. C. L. Batcheler
 "Estimation of opossum density by extent of interference with non-toxic baits" Mr. J. M. Bamford
Coasts and Islands
 Chairman: Miss R. Mason
 "The roles of *Spartina* in New Zealand" Mr. L. D. Bascand
 "Manawatu sand dune vegetation" Mr. A. E. Esler
 "Present status of indigenous flora and fauna — Chatham Islands" Mr. I. M. Ritchie

Conservation and Multiple Use

- Chairman: Dr. J. A. Gibb
 "Conservation of natural resources" Mr. G. A. G. Frengley
 "Multiple use of wetlands" Dr. G. R. Williams
 "Wetlands and waterfowl" Mr. M. J. Williams and Mr. M. J. Imber

Birds and an Illusory Animal

- Chairman: Dr. K. J. Westerskov
 "Numbers and distribution of young rooks in S.E. Scotland" Dr. R. A. Fordham
 "Community development in the gannets at Cape Kidnappers" Mr. C. J. R. Robertson
 "The waitoreke — a new look" Mr. G. A. Pollock

Discussion and Summing Up of Conference

- Chairman: Mr. K. H. Miers.
 Panel: Section Chairmen