

will become part of most environmental impact reports on development roading. The Society, or its registered Ecological Consultants, will be likely to be called upon to assist the Environment Commission in assessing environmental impact reports produced by Government Departments or local bodies.

Acknowledgments

Many members of the Society assisted the subcommittee in its various activities and we would take this opportunity of thanking them for their help.

M. N. Foggo, L. F. Molloy, E. A. Walker.

CONFERENCE 1972

The 21st Annual Conference was held at Massey University between 23 and 26 August 1972. Approximately 90 members and some visitors attended. An extensive display had been set up near the lecture room showing research at Pukepuke Lagoon and local conservation projects. On the first day the following contributed papers were read:

1. I. G. Crook and L. R. Moran: Relationships between tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*) and the fairy prion.
2. P. Campbell: The feeding ecology of the hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) in pasture lands in New Zealand.
3. P. R. Wilson: The ecology of the Indian myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) in Hawke's Bay.
4. C. Burrows and W. H. Lintott: Palaeo-ecology: 14,000 years of vegetational change at Cass.
5. W. Silvester: Nitrogen fixation in litter and soils of mixed forest.
6. P. Wardle: The kahikatea forest of South Westland.
7. M. J. A. Bulfin: Some aspects of the vegetation of Farewell Spit.
8. I. M. Ritchie: The origin of grass seed as it affects seed-weight, germination and subsequent growth, with implications for high altitude regeneration.
9. J. Skipworth: Faecal analysis: methods and potential.
10. G. D. Ward: Tracking possums in mixed forest by means of radio-telemetry.

The second day was devoted to a symposium on "The ecology of the coastal lake and swamp ecosystems of the Manawatu". The following papers were read:

1. T. Caithness: Introduction to the Pukepuke Lagoon Wildlife Project.

2. I. Ritchie: Dune chronosequence and history of the Manawatu coastal vegetation over 10,000 years.
3. J. Ogden: The origins and decline of the coastal swamp ecosystems of the Manawatu.
4. C. Page: The Pukepuke representative hydrological basin—M.O.W. project.
5. G. Gibbs: Plankton cycles and some comments on succession in the Pukepuke Lagoon system.
6. J. Ogden: Energy flow in *Typha* stands.
7. P. Castle: The role of eels in the ecology of Pukepuke Lagoon.
8. T. Caithness: The waterfowl and their usage of Pukepuke Lagoon.
9. R. Fordham: Use by pukeko of pasture adjoining Pukepuke Lagoon.
10. R. B. Lavers: A preliminary account of a study of mustelids at Pukepuke Lagoon.

After the day's papers Mr P. A. Williams gave an impromptu account of the activities at the U.N. Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm.

The excursion was well attended by over 70 members who were shown research work at Pukepuke Lagoon. *En route*, dune structure and sequence was explained.

Annual General Meeting

The 20th A.G.M. was held in the Ira Cunningham Lecture Theatre on 25 August and was attended by 52 members. The Annual Report and financial statement were adopted. Dr G. R. Williams was elected president, Mrs M. M. Davidson vice-president, and Mr M. N. Foggo and Dr M. R. Rudge were elected treasurer and secretary respectively.

M. R. Rudge