

# Forest and Bird



## TUI

(*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*)

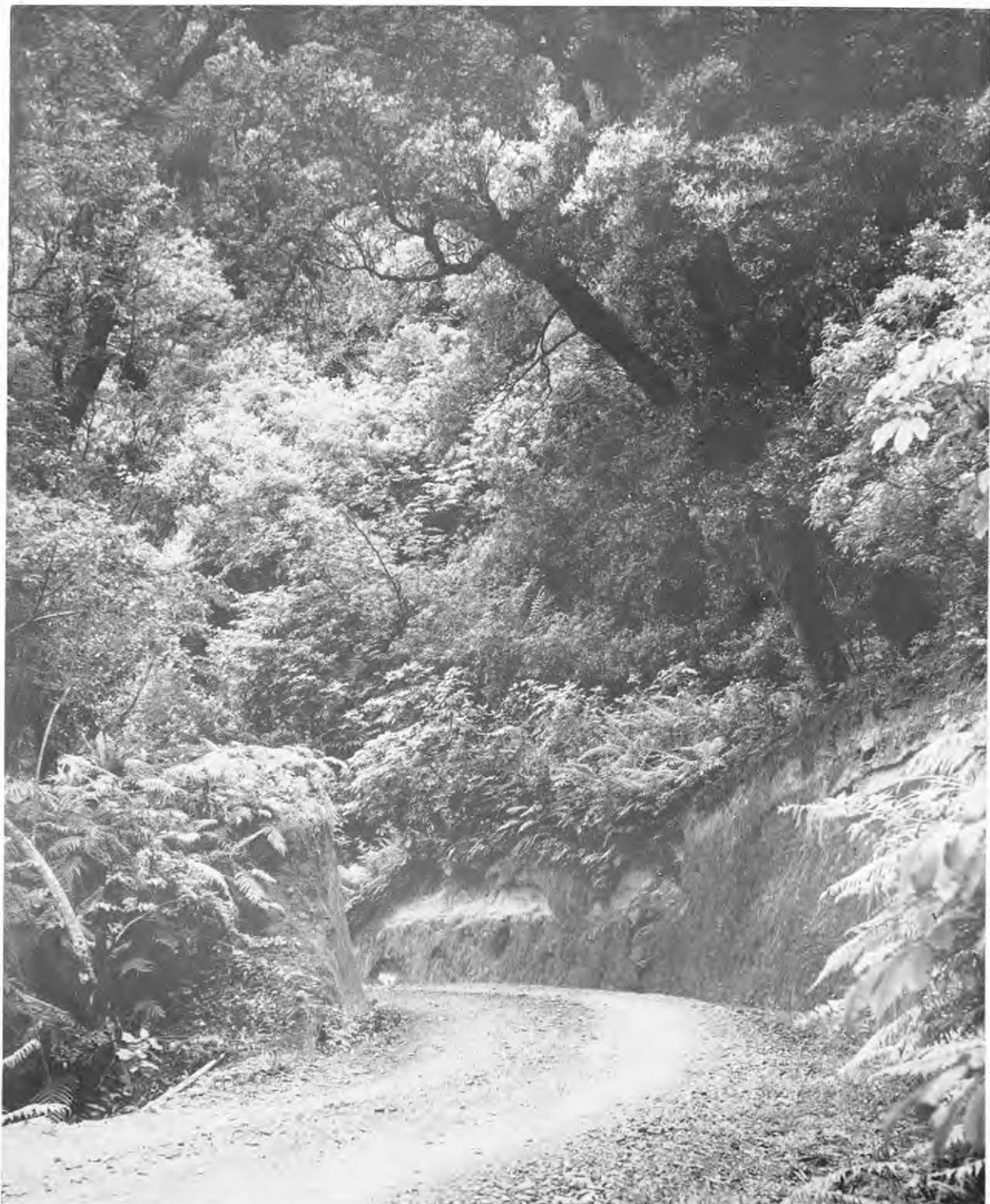
On branch of fruiting Poroporo  
(*Solanum aviculare*)

NUMBER 106.

NOVEMBER, 1952.

*Issued Quarterly.*

Published by the FOREST and BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND Incorporated.



ROAD THROUGH BUSH — UREWERA COUNTRY (*See page 6*).

[*Photo: Dr. J. T. Salmon, A.R.P.S.*]

# FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)

Head Office: "Evening Post" Buildings, Willis Street, Wellington, N.Z.  
Telegrams: Forestbird.

P.O. Box 631.

## LIST OF OFFICERS:

### Patron:

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MAORI RACE: THE RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF AOTEAROA.

### Executive:

President: ARTHUR P. HARPER, C.B.E.

DU PONT, MRS. A. J.  
FALLA, DR. R. A., F.R.S.N.Z.  
COOPER, R. W.  
JONES, A. MORRIS, A.N.Z.I.A.

NELSON, R. C.  
VOGEL, J. E. F.  
HON. TREASURER: T. L. WARD.  
CONNELLY, M., *Dunedin.*  
McCASKILL, PROF. L. W., *Christchurch.*  
McGREGOR, PROF. W. R., *Auckland.*  
PRYCE, E. O., *Marton.*

SECRETARY: R. H. CARTER.

HON. AUDITOR: W. S. WHEELER (WATKINS, HULL, WHEELER & JOHNSTON).

### Past Presidents:

1923-1930 SIR THOMAS MCKENZIE, G.C.M.G. 1933-1945 CAPT. E. V. SANDERSON (Founder).  
1930-1931 DR. L. COCKAYNE, C.M.G., F.R.S. 1946-1948 B. C. ASTON, C.B.E., F.R.I.C., F.R.S.N.Z.  
1932-1933 R. A. (later SIR ROBERT) ANDERSON, C.M.G.

### Honorary Vice-Presidents:

RT. HON. VISCOUNT BLEDISLOE, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., AND LADY BLEDISLOE.

### Vice-Presidents:

ARCHEY, DR. GILBERT, O.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.Z.S., F.R.S.N.Z. . . . .	AUCKLAND	MCCASKILL, PROF. L. W., M.AGR.SC. . . . .	CHRISTCHURCH
COBELDICK, WM., F.R.G.S. . . . .	CHRISTCHURCH	McIRAN, W. E. . . . .	AUCKLAND
DU PONT, MRS. A. J. . . . .	WELLINGTON	MONCRIEFF, MRS. P. . . . .	NELSON
FALLA, DR. R. A., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S. N.Z. . . . .	WELLINGTON	NELSON, R. C. . . . .	WELLINGTON
FRASER, W. M. . . . .	WHANGAREI	SLADDEN, BERNARD . . . . .	TAURANGA
GILMER, DAME ELIZABETH M., D.B.E.	WELLINGTON	THOMSON, J. B. . . . .	INVERCARGILL

### Representatives:

LR. NORTHLAND: C. W. DEVONSHIRE, PARUA BAY SCHOOL No. 2, TAURIKURA R.D., WHANGAREI.  
AUCKLAND: The Auckland Section (see below).  
THAMES VALLEY: P. CORBETT, HIKUTAIA.  
HAMILTON: R. E. R. GRIMMETT, M.Sc., F.N.Z.I.C., P.O. Box 490, HAMILTON.  
BAY OF PLENTY (WEST): T. D. BATHGATE, c/o A. SNODGRASS, TE PUNA, TAURANGA.  
BAY OF PLENTY (EAST): B. SLADDEN, 11 FRASER STREET, TAURANGA.  
HAWKE'S BAY: DR. D. A. BATHGATE, 1005 KARAMU ROAD, HASTINGS.  
WANGANUI: DR. C. HUGHES-JOHNSON, 42 WICKSTEED ST., WANGANUI.  
NELSON: MRS. P. MONCRIEFF, THE CLIFFS, NELSON.  
MOTUEKA: DENIS BRERETON, BATON, MOTUEKA.  
CANTERBURY: PROF. L. W. McCASKILL, 50 CLIFFORD AVE., FENDALTON, CHRISTCHURCH.  
WESTLAND: REV. J. W. WALTON, THE VICARAGE, RUNANGA.  
DUNEDIN: M. CONNELLY, 22 GLADSTONE RD.  
SOUTHLAND: J. B. THOMSON, c/o Box 154 INVERCARGILL.

### Sections of the Society:

AUCKLAND: Hon. Sec., Miss F. GUNSON, P.O. Box 1118, AUCKLAND, C.1.  
GISBORNE: Hon. Sec., Lt.-COL. A. BLACKBURN, 10 SCORE ROAD.  
CHRISTCHURCH: Hon. Sec., Miss A. ANDERSON, 21 MAKORA ST., FENDALTON, N.W.1. Hon. ORGANISER: Miss M. JENNINGS, 7 JAMES ST., REDCLIFFS, S.E. 3.

## OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

To advocate and obtain efficient protection of our native forests and birds and the preservation of sanctuaries, and scenic and other reserves, in their native state, and to enlist the practical sympathy of both young and old in these objects.

The Society invites all those who realise the great economic and aesthetic value of our native birds, and who wish to preserve our unrivalled scenic beauties, to band together with it to carry out these objects.

The subscriptions are: Life Members £10. Endowment Members £1, Ordinary Members 7/6, Junior Members 3/- per annum. Endowment Members comprise those who desire to contribute in a more helpful manner towards the preservation of our birds and forests. This magazine is issued quarterly to all members without charge.

Convening and Secretarial Member of Nature Protection Council.

National Section of the International Committee for Bird Preservation.

Member of the International Union for the Protection of Nature (IUPN).

CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE APPEAR ON PAGE 16.

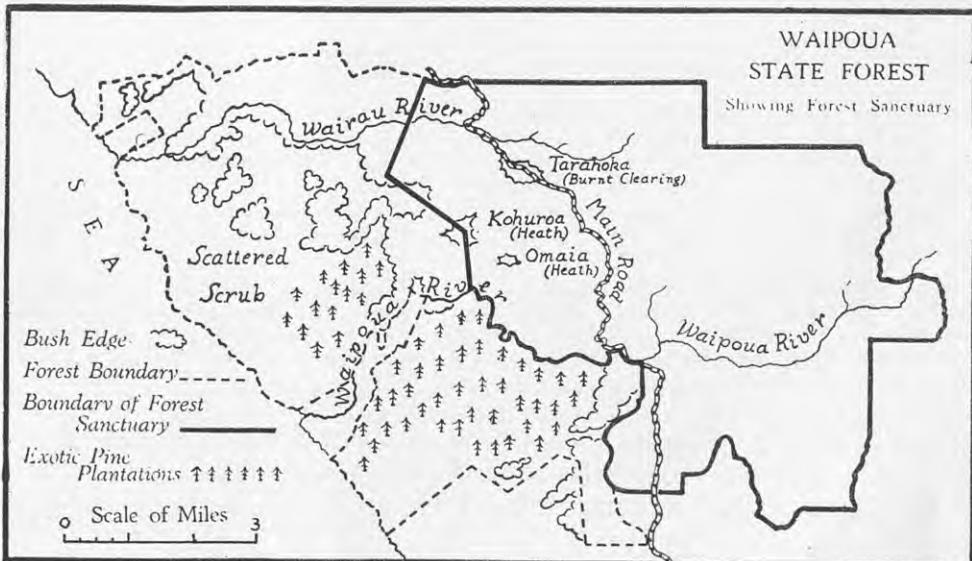
## EDITORIALS

# Waipoua Forest Sanctuary

WELCOMING the announcement made by the Minister of Forests, the Hon. Mr. Corbett, that an area of 22,500 acres of the Waipoua State Forest has been proclaimed as a Forest Sanctuary under the Forests Act, the Society pays full tribute to the Minister, who is known to be a sincere lover of our native bush. The Minister's decision means that a very considerable area, and indeed one far greater than originally offered, is to become a forest reserve specially protected by the sanctuary provisions of the Forests Act and so immune from commercial exploitation in the future.

The Society is grateful for the decision that has been made; but at the same time hopes that the proposal originally made to the authorities for the reservation as a national park of the whole of the Waipoua State Forest may yet commend itself to the Minister. The public generally may not perhaps fully realise that a kauri forest in a natural environment changes very gradually through the ages. The giants of the forest mature and pass away, being slowly succeeded by other types of bush; but kauri forest itself lives on as adjoining areas in their turn gradually become clothed with kauris in various stages of growth. Thus there would always be in such an environment dying kauris in process of replacement by other trees, kauris in the full glory of their magnificent maturity, young and vigorous kauris striving for fullness of growth and beauty, and virgin areas where the kauri seedlings were yet to appear. Such would be the cycle of nature, unattainable now in most cases because of man's use and occupation of the land, but still possible at Waipoua provided the whole of the State Forest area is left to nature to deal with in her own way.

The Society does not for a moment question the sincerity and good intentions of the Forest Service, which it understands is to manage that large portion of the Waipoua State Forest (including scrub lands and young kauri forest) outside the boundaries of the proposed forest sanctuary, and which it knows will faithfully preserve the actual sanctuary area. Nevertheless the Society remains firmly of the opinion that the whole of the State Forest reserve should be a national park, and that any work carried out therein should be purely of a protective character, with no question of forest management or experimentation in regeneration, and that control should be in the hands of a National Park Board, which would have as its chief and abiding interest the preservation of the whole area in its natural condition, and which should confidently be able to rely on adequate support from the State in the carrying out of a sacred trust.



# National Parks

**I**N our last issue we outlined, briefly, the Society's views as to the reforms necessary to establish an efficient and practical policy of control and management of our National Parks, and expressed the hope that the proposed legislation would recognise the need for these reforms, which had been advocated for many years. While that issue was in print, the Hon. Minister of Lands, Mr. Corbett, introduced the Bill, which received unanimous approval in Parliament.

The machinery, namely a National Park Authority, working through local Park Boards in each of the existing National Parks and any others that may be proclaimed, is simple and practical, and **the key note is preservation of our natural flora and fauna and the extermination, as far as possible, of all introduced plants and animals which exist in such areas.**

## National Park Authority

The Authority consists of nine members, five of whom represent the Departments of Lands (two), Internal Affairs and Tourists, and the New Zealand Forest Service. To these are added four members, one each to be appointed upon the recommendation of the Executives of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand and Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand respectively, and one appointed by the Minister to represent the National Park Boards established by the Act.

The Authority is given control, in the national interest, of the administration of existing National Parks and it may recommend the enlargement of these Parks and establishment of new ones.

## National Park Boards

Under the Authority are the Park Boards. The Tongariro Park Board is reduced to eight members, namely the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Wellington District, a lineal descendant of Te Heuheu Tukino, the donor of the area, four persons appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the Authority, and one each on the recommendation of the Federated Mountain Clubs and the Ski Council of that body.

The Egmont Park Board also has eight members, four to represent the four existing local committees, one representing Taranaki Local Bodies and two recommended by the Authority. The Commissioner of Crown Lands in Taranaki is Chairman.

In all other National Parks the Boards will consist of the Commissioner of Crown Lands for the district, and six members recommended by the Authority, with the proviso that where the Authority considers that climbers and skiers should be represented it shall do so on the recommendation of the Federated Mountain Clubs and Ski Council.

The constitution of the Park Boards is, in our opinion, on very sound lines. Firstly because, as these Boards have to carry out the Authority's general policy, it is important that the Authority should approve of the persons appointed, and secondly because small Boards of members with local knowledge of the area under their care are much more useful than the past plan of large Boards of eighteen or more members, some of whom were appointed by virtue of some office held by them on Local Bodies rather than practical knowledge of the area concerned.

## Finance

In the past all National Parks have been handicapped for want of revenue except in the case of Egmont, where the local Bodies surrounding the mountain have

voted themselves to provide a substantial income. Tongariro and Arthur Pass Boards had not sufficient income to maintain their areas; if any extra expenditure was necessary application for a grant had to be made to the Government.

Those who have been advocating reforms had hoped that special provision would be made for an annual appropriation for the upkeep of National Parks, as in Great Britain, United States and Canada. It is disappointing to find no mention of this in the Act. The only reference to finance is that one of the duties of the Authority is to recommend to the Minister the manner in which "moneys appropriated by Parliament for National Parks" shall be allocated. Let us hope that this forecasts special annual appropriations.

### General Provisions

The powers given Boards for efficient ranging, prevention of fires, prohibition of firearms without a permit, the prevention of disturbance of birds or their eggs and nests, the extermination of introduced plants and animals and the protection of our native plants are extensive and the penalties adequate.

Power is given to Boards, with the consent of the Authority to construct roads and tracks with minimum damage to bush and to set aside suitable portions as "Wilderness Areas" to be left in their natural condition for all time. Perusal of these provisions will satisfy our members and the public generally that **preservation of our forests and birds is paramount.**

We congratulate the Minister of Lands for having brought down this much needed legislation and its most favourable reception in Parliament.

---

## Manuka Blight

**A NEWS** item which has deeply stirred public opinion in recent months has been that of the deliberate spreading of the so-called "manuka blight" by certain farmers in the North Island. A leading provincial daily paper, quite early in the discussion called it, with prophetic foresight, "an issue which has every prospect of becoming one of the liveliest controversies seen in the country in many years". Many persons have taken part, from leading scientists downwards.

The scientists have not been so definite in their views as others, some of whom, without a full examination of the subject, have confidently put forward strong views in favour of the spread of the blight which may have seemed convincing to the uninitiated, while others again have argued from an intuitive repugnance to the deliberate spreading of disease or to the destruction of beauty. The scientists take the line that much research is needed before a definite pronouncement can be made. They are, however, uniformly against the artificial spreading of the disease in the meantime, and with this the Society definitely concurs, though it agrees that farmers should be given all reasonable help in their work and does not dispute the fact that manuka is a plague on some farms. On the other hand many farmers admit the shelter value of manuka for stock and the benefit accruing from the insect-eating birds which it, in turn, shelters.

### Protest and Reply

In reply to a protest against deliberate infestation, the Society has received an assurance from the Hon. Mr. Holyoake, Minister of Agriculture, that he will consider whether any active steps should be taken to control the spread of the disease when an up-to-date survey, which he has arranged for his officers to undertake, has been completed. He has also told us that an inter-departmental committee which investi-

gated the matter some little time ago considered it to be unwise to foster and distribute manuka blight beyond the range of its spontaneous occurrence. Such urging does not appear to have carried weight with some farmers who are jubilant about their success in spreading the blight with results satisfactory to themselves but, as we consider, dangerous to the country.

The Society's protest was based on four points:—

The danger of erosion caused by the disease spreading and killing out manuka on steep slopes.

The loss of the "nursery" of regenerating forests.

The possibility, based on the known fact that it is not confined to manuka, that it may get out of hand and destroy other trees.

The possibility of unforeseen repercussions caused by the deliberate spreading of disease.

### Native Birds

A further argument could have been the danger to native birds. Manuka is a source of food to many insect-eating birds, and indeed the habitat of numbers of them. The destruction of thousands of acres of manuka would spell the doom of further numbers of our native birds, which have already been too far reduced.

### The Need for Beauty

A still further argument could have been against the destruction of beauty. Those who argue from this basis have a good case. Beauty is an absolute need of man. Crime flourishes in ugly places. Manuka, particularly in flower, is beautiful. It holds a place in the hearts of most New Zealanders, as shown by the remarkable publicity given by the press to a remark by a lady at our Annual General Meeting that manuka is to New Zealand what heather is to Scotland.

COVER PICTURE (From a Water-Colour by the late Miss L. A. Daff)

## TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*)

On branch of fruiting poroporo (*Solanum aviculare*)

**T**HIS is the gayest and most aggressive bird in the forest, noted throughout the land for its extreme rapidity of movement, the gloss and sheen of its plumage, the wild outburst of joyful notes, its general air of bustle, happiness, and gaiety. We know it as one of our main honey eaters. To enable it to collect the nectar from rata and kowhai and other honey-producing flowers, its tongue is furnished at the tip with a brush of exquisite fineness. In the winter tuis may leave the bush and visit civilization to feed on the nectar provided by the tree lucerne and certain eucalypts which flower at this time. Then in early spring the kowhai groves are visited by flocks of them, the trees echoing with a continuous peal as the birds practise their acrobatics in obtaining the nectar from the pendulous flowers. Berries and insects,

many of the latter caught on the wing, supplement the diet.

The varied notes of this, our most remarkable songster, continually break the stillness of the bush. Although thoroughly joyous only in the full glow of sunlight, it nevertheless sings earliest in the morning and latest at night of all the bush birds. It is remarkable for the variety of notes as well as the versatile manner of delivery. A medley of musical notes will intermingle with chucklings, clicks, and clucks; beautiful liquid sounds will be followed by a noise not unlike the breaking of a pane of glass or perhaps a series of gentle sobs; dainty whisper songs alternate with coughs and sneezes. After sunset the wild revelry ceases—until darkness sets in the song consists of a succession of notes like the tolling of a distant bell.

# The Urewera Forest Area

By BERNARD TEAGUE

## PROPOSED 500,000 ACRE NATIONAL PARK

**T**HE announcement at the Society's Annual General Meeting, by the Hon. Mr. Corbett, Minister of Lands and Forests, of the Government's intention to create a 500,000 acre National Park in the Urewera, is a definite step towards the fruition of efforts made over many years by our Society and other organisations and individuals. The announcement followed the address, "The Forest Land of the Tuhoe Tribes", given by Mr. Bernard Teague, who described the area concerned and illustrated his address with over a hundred lantern slides. Mr. Teague here gives a brief description of the Tuhoe forest.

Steep, forest clad ranges, rivers and streams flowing in deep narrow gorges, misty clouds clinging lovingly to mountain tops, with summits that are not quite high enough to achieve the openness of tussock-clad snowtops, this is a quick description of the Urewera forest area.

It must not be imagined however that "Te Urewera" is a harsh, rugged or gloomy land. Apart from the occasional roughness of portions of its great gorges, or a steep facade of cliffs and bluffs where some cataclysmic upthrust of ages past has given a precipitous face to the side of a mountain range, it is a quiet land of soft beauty. Its rivers and streams are not difficult, unclimbable cataracts as are many of New Zealand's mountain streams. Where there are waterfalls they are soft and beautiful, the waterways are easy of passage to the trapper, it is a quiet land, soft and lovely, with a climate that is singularly free from the wild storms and blizzards that regularly sweep mountain country in other parts of Aotearoa.

No one can now tell when the people of Nga-potiki (or Tuhoe-potiki) first came to these great forests to become, through their centuries of occupation, the greatest bushmen that New Zealand has ever known. We do know that they were pre-Maori in origin, and indeed, when the main migration of Maoris arrived, these "tangata whenua" were driven even deeper into the forest, to find in these canyon-like halls of Tane, a place of refuge.

As the result of an accident that he suffered, an aged Tuhoe Chief was given

the sarcastic nickname of "Te Urewera". With the passing of the years the name spread from the chief's own hapu to cover the whole of the tribes of Tuhoe, until today, it is universally used. More beautiful is the title bestowed on the Tuhoe people by their chief historian, the late Elsdon Best, who called the people he loved so much, "The Children of the Mist". I have never heard this title used in other than its English form.\*

The name Urewera today embraces a far greater tract of forest than it did in stone age times. The forest is practically unbroken from the Bay of Plenty and the back of Gisborne through to its junction with the planted exotic forests of the Taupo area. To the west it stretches down to the Kaimanawa ranges. The same forest surrounds Lake Waikaremoana and clothes the tops of the ranges above the high rim of the inland Hawkes Bay sheep stations. Yet Waikaremoana was not originally part of "Te Urewera", indeed, the Tuhoe tribes, and the Ngati Ruapani of Waikaremoana were often at war with one another. The great eastern continuation of the forest to the headwaters of the Hangaroa and Wai-oeka rivers in the Te Wana area was not, I think, reckoned as Urewera land. But today practically the whole of the area mentioned is included in the title and for the purposes of the formation of a National Park the largest possible area should be considered. The Lake Waikaremoana watershed is already preserved as a reserve and bird sanctuary and although the Lake has been the Cinderella of tourists resorts

\*The words "Te Urewera" refer to an injury by burns to part of the chief's body. Tuhoe was the name of one of the principal ancestors of the tribes. The name "People of the Mist" refers to a legend of the tribes that they are descended from the Mist Maiden who lived on the top of Maungapohatu.—Ed.

for many years and the several Government departments who are interested in its control have shown very little initiative in developing it, thousands of people have visited the "Sea of Rippling Waters" each year and have gone away charmed. As the great star attraction of the future National Park, Waikaremoana has great possibilities and is capable of much development.

The Urewera forest is perhaps quieter and lonelier today than it has ever been since the stone age Maruiwi and Maori first set foot in its deep hidden gorges. With the passing of the stone age there came a short tumultuous period when the Armed Constabulary probed the forest routes seeking the elusive rebel, Te Kooti. Lonely valleys heard shots fired in war and pas were burnt and pakeha wounded carried out over the steep hill tracks. After this period the Maori gradually forsook his clearings deep in the forest with the result that today the only centres of Maori life are around Ruatahuna and Te Whaiti. Today Government deer killers and one or two trampers are the only ones who know the area as a whole.

There are signs however that this long quiet period in the history of this forest is coming to a close. No longer is the Urewera forest the forgotten forest of the North Island. The eyes of men are upon it for several reasons. From Auckland to

Hawkes Bay and in Wellington power supply authorities have realised the importance of maintaining the forest as a catchment area for the three Waikaremoana power stations and for the other power stations of the North Island. Meanwhile, around the area, towns are growing into cities and new towns and potential cities are rising. Napier, Hastings, Gisborne and Wairoa are on the southern side of the Urewera, Whakatane and other towns to the east. Inland is Hamilton, Cambridge and Rotorua, with the possibility of new large towns, perhaps a city, at Tokoroa, Kaiangaroa and Murupara. Tauranga is to be developed as a deep sea port. Millions of pounds are to be spent in developing the adjacent soft wood forests of Rotorua and Taupo.

It almost seems that a kind providence has preserved this forest to be a future playground for these adjacent large centres of population which must increase in size each year. The North Island will need these forest solitudes and holiday makers of every type will find something to appeal to every one. Guest houses at Waikaremoana and Ruatahuna will cater for tired business men. Hardy trampers will be able to follow the mountain trails or follow the sparkling water down the deep gorges. Fishermen will find excellent sport.

*On right. Tuhoe Forest Trail. On the 9 mile track to Maungapohatu pa.*

*Below. Maungapohatu pa and Mountain. The pa (now deserted) is at left centre. The old Presbyterian Mission is obscured by the top of the tall tree in centre foreground, but a portion of the belt of trees enclosing it can be seen.*

*[Photos by Author.]*



Botanists and ornithologists will have half a million acres to roam over, photographers will be able to click their shutters happily. In certain areas, particularly in the Lakes Waikaremoana and Waikare-iti regions, walking routes could be developed by cutting tracks for tourists that would give hours of happy scenic wandering to those who would like to sample the joys of the forest without the heavy pack carrying that appeals to the hardier tent-pitching trumper. For the exploring trumper large areas could be preserved as wilderness areas. In a vast basin to the North of Lake Waikare-iti, at an altitude of 3000 feet is an entrancing region of forest everglades that so far has been seldom visited by any except a few deer-stalkers. Over a range to the west of Waikaremoana is a river of waterfalls which must be unique in the whole of the North Island. It is easy of passage and could be developed as a tramping route as the Milford track is developed in the South. The trip in to Maungapohatu, the great hidden pa of the Tuhoe people is within the capability of any good walker and apart from other attractions the view of the great black mountain and the historic pa, as seen from the eminence Kakare, is one of the greatest views in the North Island.

There are two great wildlife problems that have to be faced in the Urewera, the two same problems that are giving concern in other parts of New Zealand's mountain

and forest country. Deer and opossums present the same great menace to the forests as they do elsewhere. For perhaps twenty years the Department of Internal Affairs has had its hunters continually prowling through a large part of the forest. Thousands of deer have been shot and the numbers materially reduced. The story of the damage done by deer is a tragic one and would fill pages. Yet there are signs of an improvement due to the good work done by the Government hunters and in the last few years plans have been made that will lead to a far more intensive campaign against deer. The checking of opossums will not prove so easy and these marsupials are present in tens of thousands. Forest authorities in the area are very worried about the damage being done and realise that present trapping and hunting methods are pitifully inadequate to deal with this tree-top menace.

This then is the vast forest land that it is proposed to constitute a National Park and a playground for the people. Here in these halls of Tane, if we can check destroying animals, and prevent fire, men and women centuries hence will still hear the dawn chorus of the birds, will still see the wood pigeon swoop across the valley, will still follow trails that were pioneered in the stone age and will find pleasure, recreation and health.

---

## Along the Track

**NELSON.**—You might be interested in an old kowhai tree I have, one branch of which has in the last 3 years bloomed early in June. The tuis nearby go mad when they see these yellow blooms so early, bellbirds too. When they have finished pulling the flowers to bits, they return thankfully to their syrup bottles, which I always keep filled on bushes near the veranda. I had a pair of riflemen not long ago, and always lots of whiteeyes, who squeak with annoyance when tuis have drunk below the depth of their small beaks.  
—*Mrs. D. Wiggins.*

**AUCKLAND.**—Three years ago I realised a dream of possessing some native bush—two acres with some of the largest manuka I have ever seen, one more than a yard wide in the trunk, with many native birds. Enormous

tree ferns of several varieties, three very similar to the Norfolk Island one but much larger and more of a weeping variety, glow worms etc.

The City Council wanted to put the sewer through the bed of the little stream almost dry in summer—but by devious ways we managed to have the plan altered. Then they couldn't get a tender. In the end two Maoris did the work and I implored them to spare the tree ferns. When I went to see how they were getting on, expecting devastation, I found that they had tunnelled under tree ferns in the way of the ditch and after the job was finished not one fern died and already except for two inspection traps all is as it was. I often think of those two gracious men with gratitude in my heart.—*Mrs. S. Muir.*

## In Defence of the Harrier

Mr. W. H. J. Poole writes:—

"In your last issue\* you speak of the Harrier hawk as a destroyer of game and pests. I am past the 70 year mark, took out my first licence in my 12th year and each year after until I was 26, then out of N.Z. for 3 years and licences again ad lib. and in a lifetime of shooting and hunting have never seen Kahu kill a pheasant or quail or duck unless it was already hit or sick.

"Here is what the late Edgar Waite said (no need to tell you who he was) on one occasion when he, the late Edgar Stead, and I were talking in the Christchurch Museum just after they had come back from interviewing the Okarito whale. Quotha: 'When you New Zealanders have killed the last Harrier you will have spelt the doom of your ground game. Try to imagine a Harrier 300 or 3000 feet up in the air with eyesight such as no human can imagine. He sees a movement, a turmoil in the bracken. Now you MUST know that a Harrier cannot kill unless his wings are free. It is his business to investigate the trouble so down he comes and beats and works way into the bracken; you go over and flush him from a freshly killed hen pheasant or quail. I say hen because they crouch. You at once say, "I saw that hawk kill a hen pheasant", which is exactly what you did NOT do. If you examined the bird you would find its neck punctured or its head crushed showing it had been killed by a stoat, ferret or cat or rat'.

"I have had dozens of shooting men on the look-out for many years and the conclusion of all is—a Harrier does NOT kill game birds. His prey is rats, stoats (I personally have on four occasions seen stoats killed by Harriers), young rabbits and small birds.

"Get a team of really observant persons to watch. My son and I counted 28 Harriers over a patch of newly burned fern on which 12 pheasants were feeding. That would be 20 years ago. Now no Harriers, no pheasants."

\* This was received when the last issue was in print and before it was published.—Ed.

## Debit and Credit

By MATAKITE

A FEW years ago a farmer called on the writer and in the course of casual business reported he had had a good "burn". He referred to a blackened steep hillside from which columns of smoke rose from burning embers long after the initial blaze. The previous night had been made somewhat terrifying to bird and beast as flames, sparks and smoke rose in spectacular billows and columns against the surrounding darkness. The writer asked if he could discuss the subject as he had a habit of analysing many things that might be otherwise taken for granted. The farmer was pleased to oblige and the conversation took approximately the following form.

"What do you regard as a good burn?"

"A clearance of fern and scrub from land that should be grazing sheep."

"But you burn the soil and roots of grass, and neither will respond too readily."

"If grass seed is sown, it will soon grow in the ashes especially after a shower of rain."

"A good deal would depend on the degree of burning and the quantity of rain. A heavy rain would wash it all off. Also you have the cost of the seed."

"But it will show a good return. I will be able to graze more sheep than formerly."

"That can be disputed. There must have been good picking among the ferns as you had previously sown grass. You will get no return this year and in all probability none next. The third and fourth years you may have a fair return. The fifth year will begin to show the fern, and in the sixth you will probably have another burn. After each burn the available soil is less and in twelve to twenty years you may have little soil remaining. The hillside is too steep."

"You may be right but the lower pasture will benefit."

"To a large degree it will, but with a swift run-off from the high hillside you will find that much of it will wash across the lower pastures in channels and eventually reach the river."

"You are dead right there. I have noticed

(Continued on Page 12.)

# Bushmen's Names of Trees

By B. IORNS

**A**N account of some of the names, mostly descriptive and many incorrect, given to New Zealand trees and shrubs by the early settlers, and in most cases still in use. We have taken the liberty of making some additions and comments in the form of Editorial Notes.

Knowing little of botany or botanical names of trees, shrubs or plants, bushmen and settlers developed a motley collection of names for them. Some of these names were true Maori, others crude mispronunciation of Maori, some after English trees, and others descriptive of the tree or some of its properties. Rarely did they resort to the botanical name except when the Maori and the botanical happened to coincide as in totara, tawa, taraire, etc.

At times, especially on the higher levels where Maoris were scarce and popular names rare, such botanical names as *Lacunosa* (*Olearia lacunosa*) and *Gaultheria* were accepted, although the latter with its lily of the valley like flowers, was just as often called snowberry; also a bit lower down that long trailing fern, *Lycopodium*,<sup>1</sup> was only slightly twisted into lakkerpodium. In all these cases only half the botanical name was used, and there were no rules about which half either, except perhaps to take the easiest half. The natural consequence of this was that many different names were applied to the same tree in different parts of the country. Even the Maoris had some different names according to locality; most of the accepted Maori names originated in the north, and did not always agree with those further south.

Some of the names were not exactly flattering to those honoured by having certain species named after them. For instance, that long spiked shrub of the stony plains, the tumatakuru of the Maori, became matagowrie, and is now even better known as Wild Irishman<sup>2</sup>. The sharp-hooked clinging vine the tataramoa, became the lawyer or bush lawyer, which name is universally used even by members of the legal profession who happen to make contact with it, the difficulty of getting out of its entanglements making the name self explanatory.

In the snow-line country that bayonet-leaved member of the *Aciphylla* genus at one time known as spear grass, is now almost exclusively termed Spaniard. The original bestower of this name probably relieved some of his racial antipathy in the effort. The common manuka was known to many as tea tree<sup>3</sup>, and even at times spelt ti tree, which would make it the cabbage tree, that being the Maori name of that exaggerated lily that so little resembles a cabbage. Pronunciations, or mispronunciations of manuka were evenly divided between marnikker, with the accent on the mar, and mernooker, with the accent on the nooker. The fuchsia tree was always known as the konini, whereas it is the kotu-

kutuku, the konini actually being the berry, being one of the few cases of a fruit having a name distinct from the tree, as in the acorn being the fruit or nut of the oak tree.

In the South Island where Maoris were few and the pakeha seldom had opportunities of hearing correct Maori, that golden-flowered tree, the kowhai, became gowhai, and the korari or flower stalk of the flax, got down to a kraddy stick<sup>4</sup>. Of course tutu was just plain toot to almost everyone. Porokaiwhiri was too much of a mouthful, so that tree became pigeon berry or pigeon wood. Mahoe on account of its light coloured wood, became white wood or whitey wood. The most evil smelling of the *coprosma* family seldom got its Maori name of lupiro; it was stinkwood.

Another unusual member of the lily family is the supplejack, commonly pronounced as sooplejack, whose tough stems or vines were widely used at one time as pins to hold thatching on hay or grain stacks, also as bows to stretch rabbit-skins on for drying, and last but not least by school teachers in the enforcement of discipline. The kawakawa, mostly pronounced as kuvverkuvver, was also known as the tree supplejack, from a similarity to the dark colour and jointed stems of that vine. Tupari, unbeloved of scantily clad trampers on the snow-line, was widely known as leather leaf, leatherwood, leather jacket, and even leather lugs. Its low radiating branches guaranteed that they would always be end on, no matter how approached, and if one pushed the branches aside, he merely arrived at the centre of the bush, so generally climbed over.

Houhere, turned into the botanical *Hoheria*, was from its remarkable inner bark, known as thousand jacket, ribbon wood, and lace bark, the latter being the most appropriate. The kiekie, usually pronounced geggy<sup>5</sup>, was often confused with the *astelia*, which although its leaves were similar, had none of the long ropey stems of the kiekie, nor did it climb from the ground up the trunks of trees. The pokaka was known as the white hinau, having a much lighter bark than its brother tree the common hinau, which was known sometimes as new chum's maire, as the wood and bark resembled maire sufficiently to deceive the inexperienced.

The beeches, tawai to the Maori, were almost universally termed birches, except by botanists, but the term beech is better known now, even to those who for convenience still use birch. To distinguish the four different species of beech, as many as seven different colour prefixes were used, black, brown,

<sup>1</sup>*Lycopodium* is actually not a fern, although it was sometimes known as "creeping fern".

<sup>2</sup>Wild Irishman is probably the older name. Mr. Harper remembers this in the 1870's, but he first heard matagowrie about 1889.

<sup>3</sup>Because its leaves were sometimes used as an alternative to real tea.

<sup>4</sup>The sound in Maori represented, for want of a better symbol, by r in the English spelling, was sometimes mistaken by early settlers for d; hence kraddy as a corruption of korari. In very early days kauri was sometimes written as cowdie.

<sup>5</sup>Or gee-gee (hard g).

red, pink, silver, cherry and white. The latter was applied to the kamahi<sup>6</sup> which was not a beech at all. Perhaps still more colours may have been used for the hybrids that occur between two of the species, truly a rainbow tree. Kamahi was as often as not called tawhero, pronounced tarfero<sup>7</sup> with the accent on the tar, this actually being its northern brother, perhaps not without some justification, as Kirk in his "Forest Flora" suggested making them one species.

The maire tawake was known also as the waiwaka, and sometimes as the bog myrtle from its liking for wet boggy situations and its myrtle-like flowers. Where the maire of it came in is hard to see from any point. Tanekaha was often called celery topped pine, but many stopped at tannykow<sup>8</sup>. That striking shrub or giant plant, the poro poro, with its large blue flowers so like those of the potato to which it is related, was bulla bull to all and sundry.

The fine tree fern, ponga is the Maori, was just plain bunger, in fact all tree ferns were bungers, some being black bungers, some brown, some silver, but all bungers<sup>9</sup>. Pukatea was always buckerteer.

Rewarewa is still widely known as honeysuckle from a resemblance in the flowers to the sweet-scented English vine of that name. The Raupo, so useful for thatching grain stacks for the pakeha and whares for the Maori, and generally accepted as the bulrush of the Bible, is still generally termed rarpoo.

The rata is still commonly believed to be a parasite, many going as far as to maintain that the rata climbs up its victim, absorbing its sap and eventually strangling it, its red flowers being coloured by the blood of its victim. When ridiculed, one challenged the writer to show what had become of the victim, perhaps inferring that the rata had swallowed it whole. Confusion no doubt arose with the smaller red and white flowered rata vines, which do actually climb up trees, but which do not develop into trees themselves or injure their support trees<sup>10</sup>.

One can hardly blame the common man for labelling as grass tree, turpentine wood, or even horse tail, a comparatively small tree or shrub with tufts of long thin hair-like leaves which the botanists had tagged as *Dracophyllum longifolium*. Had they known that its Maori name was as short as inaka, perhaps they would have been content with that. Its brother tree the nei nei, with single crowns of

flax-like leaves on the ends only of its hardwood branches, they called spider wood. This was rather apt from a resemblance on a cross section cut of its wood, to that efficient little fly catcher, the pith centre of the wood being the body of the spider and the curved rays providing a realistic set of legs.

The pines, like the beeches also had their colours, rimu being red pine; kahikatea was white pine, but sometimes abbreviated to what could be spelt as kyke. Matai remained as matai in the North Island, but answered to black pine in the South Island. Miro held its own with meero, but was wrongly believed by many to be a hybrid between the rimu and the matai. All the same it manages quite successfully to hybridise itself into the rimu and matai timber racks and price lists of the sawmillers. Totara remained as totara except when it was shortened to to-tra.

All the panax species were five fingers, except the raukawa which does not resemble its brothers, while the patete was usually included because it looked very like one, but actually was not. Some bushmen who knew the difference distinguished it with the name of snotty gob—no one seems to know the reason why. Sometimes the common panax or five finger was called ivy tree from a real resemblance in its flower heads to those of the English ivy.

Mingi or mingi mingi was a comprehensive name applied to many of the smaller coprosmas or karamus, to the larger *Leucopogon*, and *Cyathodes*, that small, light green needle-leaved shrub that has red or white berries on different bushes, also to that small tree of the peaty swamps, the *Olearia virgata*, this being called swamp mingi.

That aggressive blue grey member of the *Cassinia* genus, the tauhinu, was never anything else but tarweeny. Unlike the manuka, it sprouted from the stump when cut so the young plants had to be pulled up by hand, this being known as tarweeny jerking. It is difficult to imagine an occupation requiring less skill, knowledge or intellectual effort, so social gradings on large holdings started upwards from the "jerker"<sup>11</sup>.

The true matipou was generally known as the red matipou to distinguish it from the kohuhu, which was called the black and sometimes the silver matipou but was not a matipou at all. The ramarama was just rummy rum. Tawa was pronounced tower as in Tower of London.

Such trees as kauri, puriri, taraire, kawaka<sup>12</sup>, pohutukawa and mangeao, seem mostly to have retained their Maori names intact, perhaps because of a larger Maori population and influence in their northern habitats. In this respect even a young pole-like tree known further south as a sapling, was a ricker<sup>13</sup> to the northern bushman.

<sup>6</sup>Kamahi was known to bushmen in some localities as bastard birch.

<sup>7</sup>From the inability of most Europeans to enunciate the sound in Maori represented by "wh". Williams' Maori Dictionary has this to say of it: "Wh represents the voiceless consonant corresponding with w, and is pronounced by emitting the breath sharply between the lips. It is a mistake to assimilate the sound to that of f in English, though this has become fashionable in recent years with some of the younger Maoris". In this case the accent on the tar is wrong; each of the three syllables should be given the same value.

<sup>8</sup>Tanekaha was often referred to as New Zealand oak because of a fancied likeness of foliage.

<sup>9</sup>Or punger (soft g).

<sup>10</sup>The Northern rata (*Metrosideros robusta*) often commences as an epiphyte in a fork or crevice of another tree; it then sends down a long root to the ground which grows and eventually forms its trunk; often rootlets from this main root encircle the host tree and appear to be strangling it; it is possible that they shorten the host's life but this has been questioned. When the host dies, the rata is generally strong enough to stand on its own and it continues to grow.

<sup>11</sup>Tauhinu was sometimes referred to as cottonwood.

<sup>12</sup>Kawaka, or kaikawaka, was generally correctly called cedar in Westland in the early days.

<sup>13</sup>The reference to ricker in this connection, of Maori names being adopted into English, probably arises from a fairly universal misapprehension. This word, used for sapling, usually a kauri sapling, is thought by many to be a Maori word whereas rika has quite a different meaning in Maori. A possible derivation is that the long pole-like stems of the young kauri reminded early farmer settlers of rickers, long poles used at home in making hay ricks. Another possible explanation is that it may be a corruption of riki or ririki meaning small, thus kauri riki or kauri ririki, small kauri.

Titoki, ngaio, and kohekohe<sup>14</sup> also held their own, but turepo was milkwood from the sweet milky liquid that emerged when its bark was cut. Actually the two common akeakes were not related botanically, their association being from the great hardness and endurance of their wood, the name signifying that it might last forever. The black wooded one, *Dodonaea viscosa* to the botanist, carries the true Maori name of akeake, whilst the yellow wooded one is akiraho—as a hedge and garden shrub it is better known as golden akeake, the other being known as black akeake; in both cases it was shortened to ake ak (akky ak). The commoner species of karamu at one time had degenerated into krammer trees. Of the two griselinias, the papauma or smaller leaved one was called broad-leaf, and the other, puka to the Maori, was booked to most bushmen. So troublesome in the wool of

<sup>14</sup>Kohekohe was formerly commonly known in Marlborough Sounds as cedar, in this case incorrectly. It is actually more closely related to the mahoganies.

sheep and on parts of long-haired dogs on account of its clinging burrs or seed pods, the hutuwai was pronounced fairly well; another Maori name for this plant was piri piri, which was promptly converted into biddy biddy<sup>15</sup>.

The beautiful white clematis was always cleemaytis, and the formal pronunciation of clemmertis was hotly disputed. Not all knew that the male flowers on their separate vine were half as big again and brighter centred than those of the female flower on its own separate vine.

The old timers did not often trip over the Maori letter u, as is so commonly done nowadays when dealing with such names as rimu and karamu, so many being prone to end these words with the mew of the cat, instead of the moo of the cow.

The bushman never referred to forest as the forest; it was always the bush to him.

<sup>15</sup>Or biddy bid.

## Annual General Meeting

**THIS** was held in Wellington on 24th June. A brief report of outstanding business is given below.

The President, Mr. A. P. Harper, paid a tribute to the late Sir Joseph Heenan, all standing for a while as a mark of respect.

Referring to Arbor Day, the President praised the work of the Beautifying Societies and urged them to give preference to native trees.

He told the meeting of arrangements being made to call a meeting in the near future to discuss the formation of a National Trust for places of historic interest and natural beauty.

There was a very lively discussion on the question of the artificial spread of manuka "blight", Dr. Falla answering questions asked by members on various points connected with it. The Secretary reported on a protest which had been made to the authorities against the deliberate spread of the disease.

Thanks were given to the Honorary Auditor, Mr. W. S. Wheeler, for his considerable voluntary work in auditing the accounts, to the Press for the publicity given to nature protection matters, and the President specially mentioned the ready co-opera-

tion and assistance received from Government Departments.

The election of officers resulted as shown on page 1 of this issue.

After the meeting Mr. Bernard Teague, of Wairoa, gave a most interesting talk on the Urewera Country entitled "**The Forest Land of the Tuhoë Tribes**", illustrated with pictures which he had taken during numerous journeys through the country. This was followed by a general discussion, and the President asked the Hon. Mr. Corbett, Minister of Lands and Forests, who was present, if he could inform the meeting of the Government's plans for the Urewera.

The Minister announced that the Government had been negotiating to acquire private land, so that, with State-owned land, 500,000 acres of the Urewera could be reserved as a National Park. He stated that consideration of this would be one of the tasks of the authority to be set up under National Parks legislation in the forthcoming session of Parliament. Sawmilling permits had been refused and alternative areas for sawmilling were being sought.

Debit and Credit, from Page 9:—

those channels already but it did not occur to me they were taking the soil away."

"If you had left the fern the run-off would have been retarded. The lower pasture would benefit from each rainfall. You would be able to graze more sheep on the lower pasture each year and it would compensate for the lost (about four years in six) grazing on the high slope. You would more readily hold the soil which is a commodity that future generations will guard intensely."

"You certainly put a new angle on things."

"Well, it is worth thinking about, and I believe that if the forest were encouraged to recover among the fern you or posterity would reap a greater benefit than from any other plan you may have."

"Maybe you are right" he said somewhat thoughtfully as he thanked the writer for the conversation.

Actually, the above proved to be conservative. The hillside remained blackened or bare for four years. Two sowings of grass were lost through rain or drought. Not until the fifth year did the hillside show signs of pasture, and most of the charcoal and loose soil had gone. Many rocks and bare soil were visible from half a mile away.

# Quarterly Newsletter

**Date.**—The news in this Newsletter is that received in the office of the Society up to 10th Sept.

**Christchurch Section.**—On 28th July the Section combined with the Geographical Society to see a showing of Mr. G. M. Turner's wonderful films of sea birds on the Farne Islands, off England, and on Stewart Island; a memorable evening to a packed audience in the University geography lecture hall, with a "House Full" notice outside. Professor McCaskill gave a grave report of the neglected state of Kennedy's Bush and a deputation was arranged to the City Council. Mr. Combridge of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture was present to arrange the Section's participation in Arbor Day Ceremonies. The Secretary of the Society, Mr. R. H. Carter, was also present and gave a short account of the Society's activities.

**Auckland Section.**—On 10th July in the Zoology theatre of Auckland University College, Mr. V. Fisher of the Auckland Museum gave a talk on Maori Nature Lore. This talk, with its accompanying slides, embraced Maori nature legends, their homage to the gods for their wants of food and clothing and their dealing with nature generally and was much appreciated by a good attendance of members.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Prickett afterwards gave an exhibition of articles dyed with dyes obtained from native vegetation.

The Section held a field day at Bethells Beach on 2nd August, under the leadership of Mr. E. G. Turbott. The main event was observing the spotted shag colony at Ihumoana Point, where nest making was commencing and the birds were in beautiful breeding plumage. Messrs. Prickett and Atkinson brewed the billy tea for lunch, and the party then visited the small lake at the back of the Bethells property. The members were grateful to Mr. Lusk for permission to use his track to the top of the cliffs to see the splendid view of the beach and bays.

At the Section's Annual General Meeting held on 14th August the following officers were elected: Chairman, Professor W. R. McGregor; vice-Chairman, Mr. R. B. Sibson; Committee, Mrs. J. Prickett, Miss N. Macdonald, and Messrs. H. G. Atkinson, M. G. Fowlds, K. Given, H. C. Martin, W. T. Slater, E. G. Turbott, and R. Watson; Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Miss F. Gunson.

The Section is running a project competition for Junior members the prize for which is a silver Society monogram badge.

**Gordon V. Gow.**—It is with considerable regret that we announce the resignation, through ill health caused by wounds in World War I, of Mr. Gordon V. Gow as our representative in the "Waikato District". He has given great service to the Society in attending to business entrusted to him in various parts of his district and never demurred when an assignment was offered him. One of his chief services has been the voluntary entering of new members in which he travelled by car long distances at his own expense; some years ago these ran well into three figures and he has been regularly continuing this service. The Society has lost a very valuable representative and we wish him a speedy return to health.

**Shooting Godwits.**—When two offenders in a northern court were fined £15 and £10 respectively for shooting godwits, their counsel used the discredited argument that if it is good enough for the Russians to slaughter godwits it is good enough here, or as it has been put by defenders of the sport of shooting godwits, if they are slaughtered in the northern countries what is the use of protecting them in New Zealand. The answer of course is, and it can bear frequent repetition, that if they are exposed to the danger of extermination during their northern migration, they should be all the more protected here where there are strong protection laws, wisely administered.

**Bridal Veil Falls Reserve.**—This reserve of 538 acres at Te Mata in Raglan County has been gazetted and the Bridal Veil Falls Scenic Reserve Board set up, as the result of negotiations which have been proceeding for some years. The Raglan County Council has been the prime mover in this and our Society has been supporting the plan throughout. Our Society has the privilege of nominating a member of the Board, which held its first meeting recently, and Mr. R. E. R. Grimmett, our representative in Hamilton is our member. The Board has entrusted him with the task of reporting on the state of the forest in the Reserve and the extent to which introduced animals have damaged it. The Bridal Veil Falls which give their name to the Reserve drop for 250 feet without touching the cliff face.

**Waikato Winter Show Competition.**—The winner of the Essay Competition this year was Jacqueline Lette, of Sacred Heart College, St. Johns Hill, Wanganui. Extracts from her essay are published in the Junior Section. The subject was "What is being done in New Zealand in connection with forest and bird preservation". We congratulate her.

**Tararua National Park.**—The deputation to the Minister envisaged in the article in our last issue took place on 10th September, Messrs. L. Robinson, J. F. Thompson and B. Iorns representing the Tararua National Park Project Committee, and the President and Secretary our Society. The Minister gave the deputation a very favourable hearing and said he would have a full investigation made for submission to the National Parks Authority to be set up next year.

**Proposed National Trust.**—A further step as regards this will be taken on 11th September (the day after this goes to press) when a big meeting called jointly by the Nature Protection Council and Dr. Falla will be held at the Dominion Museum.

**Membership Drive.**—The response of members to the appeal for names of prospective members was so overwhelming that we had to engage extra staff to cope with it! The results are very satisfactory, as page 16 shows. New entries are coming in daily. There is still a large number of lists, received rather later than those already dealt with, which we have not yet had time to attend to, but the appeals will go out to the persons on these lists as soon as we can find time. Very many thanks to all those members who sent in lists.

# Miriam Ballard Memorial Essay Competition

THIS competition, which is in memory of the late Mrs. Miriam Ballard, to be conducted annually for five years, is open to all junior members of the Society who are attending **post primary** public or private or correspondence schools.

The prizes are books, first prize value approximately 25/-, second approximately 15/-, and the subject is personal observation relating to birds and plants indigenous to New Zealand.

The closing date for the essays for the fourth year will be 15th February, 1953.

The winning essay, or parts of it, will be published in the May 1953 issue of "Forest and Bird".

Full particulars will be sent on application to the Secretary, Forest and Bird Protection Society of N.Z. Inc., P.O. Box 631, Wellington.

## Percy Comes to Stay

By DUNA VOSSILIUNAS

ONE summer day as I returned home from Redcliffs School (Christchurch), a little boy told me of a penguin which had come ashore. I told my mother about it and we decided to see it. Scrambling over the rocks we reached the spot where a lot of boys were throwing stones at the poor defenceless bird. There huddled up in the rocks a young Big Crested penguin stood plucking off his baby fluff. Mother said it would be better to take him home from the danger of the boys. When we reached home I set a jar with bread and string to catch some fish. Later I produced seven cockabullies for Percy, for we had already named him. He would not eat so I opened his bill while mother gently pushed them down. That night there was a fight between the oldest hen and Percy, so I put him under an old door which was resting on a low ledge. Next morning I set to the task of getting Percy his breakfast and caught four silver herrings for him. Around his feet lay a heap of fluff for he had been plucking himself. Fun began as the two cats appeared for Percy was in a playful mood. He pecked the surprised cats and later he ventured into the kitchen. It was comical to see him jump from the yard to the doorstep. He would hesitate, then jump.

A friend arrived at 9 o'clock and together we took the bucket and some cement. That day we made a pool, and a cave (which he could sleep in) made with rock held together by cement.

Next day I emptied bucket after bucket of salt water into the pool. Later I arranged seaweed and rocks; then I let in four herrings and seven cockabullies. Percy got to know the idea. He liked seaweed and shrimps. When he was hot he would paddle in his pond.

One morning a month later as I was standing on a rock below our wall he jumped right down to me. He was now a sleek black and white penguin with a golden feathered crest on either side of his head.

Before he plunged into a blue current of water he tugged the edge of my gym dress three times, and then dived into the icy water and swam away out of sight. "Goodbye—Goodbye Percy," I cried, then set off to school.

## Waikato Winter Show Competition

Extracts from Jacqueline Lette's Winning Essay  
(See Newsletter)

IT was the white settlers who found the fire such a willing servant. Before the land could be cultivated it had to be cleared and nothing was easier than to burn the forest off. Though today few large areas of bush are burnt in a single year, each summer sees the forest remnants attacked by fire. Many of these fires are man-caused, the worst offenders being campers and smokers. Cigarette butts tossed thoughtlessly into dry grass, picnic fires left smouldering, can cause serious damage.

Deer are a great menace to our native forests. They feed on the ferns and shrubs, moss and undergrowth which form the floor of the forest. They eat tender saplings and thus prevent the regeneration of the forest. They also destroy many plants which provide honey and berries for the native birds.

If at one time New Zealand was a land of forest it was no less a land of birds. Undisturbed for centuries they lived in such isolation that many species, like the almost legendary Moa, ceased to fly. . . . Through the years many of these birds have become extinct . . . and others . . . are gradually dying out. To help keep what we have laws have been passed forbidding any person to damage certain of our native birds.

[With only one or two exceptions, all native birds are protected.—Ed.]



Duna with Percy on the low wall at the bottom of her garden. The sea (river estuary) is just the other side of the wall.

# The Wonderful Wanderings of Wiremu Double-you Weka By E. H. C.

## Chapter 10.

### A RACE WITH DEATH

**WIEMU** ran and ran. Mile after mile he ran till his legs felt heavy as lead and he could hardly drag them over the ground. All around him the bush folk were on the run; overhead, Pipiharauroa, the shining cuckoo, flew side by side with Riroriro, the grey warbler; Karearea, the bush hawk and Ruru, the owl, flew unmolested and unmolested, in the midst of a flock of smaller birds; beside him ran rat and weasel, all fears and enmities forgotten in the one great fear that embraced them all, the fear of fire.

On and on he ran; he ran till the bush was left behind. He found himself ploughing up a hillside of bracken; springy bracken that bounced under his already unsteady feet; stiff bracken that caught and tore him as he passed; and behind him ever closer came the red fire monster.

Nearer and nearer it came, its breath, thick like breath on a cold morning, swirled around him in great suffocating clouds. It choked him so that he could not breathe; it stung his eyes so that he could not see; it grew hotter and hotter every minute, and with it came sparks and red hot fragments that singed and burnt his feathers. But still he ran on stumbling at every step.

Water! Water would kill it. Sydney had said that water would kill it. Wiremu lifted his head as he ran, questing for water; but it was no good, all around him was that stifling blanket of smoke.

And then he fell—caught his foot in the bracken stems and fell. He fell and lay still, all his strength gone; he had not even enough to rise; he just lay. Too tired now to care, he lay waiting for the fire that crept closer, ever closer.

Closer and closer, foot by foot, till within a few yards of him the monster reared up crackling and leaping as if in a diabolical dance of triumph. Wiremu waited dully for it to pounce, waited and waited; then slowly the glazed look in his eyes gave place to one of hope, then one of joy. What was this? A miracle had happened. It did not pounce! With a frightful roar of frustrated fury it turned and fled back the way it had come, growing smaller and smaller as it went, till it disappeared altogether, and all that was left was the thick grey smoke-breath hanging over a blackened ruin to show where it had been. Wiremu sighed a great sigh, his head flopped forward and he knew no more, he slept! Just in time the wind had changed, the fire had died, and Wiremu was safe.

*(To be continued.)*

## Junior Along the Track

**Invercargill.**—During the May holidays I was staying on a farm in South Otago. It was hilly manuka country. Tomtits, grey warblers, bellbirds, hawks and fantails were very abundant. I had spent the morning on the branch of a tree, listening to bellbirds singing, so in the afternoon I walked over the hills to a sunny glade among the manuka, on the side of a hill. I was lying on the ground thinking, when suddenly I looked up, and saw sitting on the branch of a manuka tree, a small male tomtit. For a while it sat perfectly still and I was able to study it carefully. Unfortunately it would not sing to me and after fluttering lazily from branch to branch it slowly flew off into the dark shadows of the manuka.—*Judith Chapman*, 13 years.

**Otekaike.**—We boys dine in one big room and on Sundays at dinner time the fantail always comes in through the window and flies around the room a few times and then out again and it has been doing that for the last three or four weeks.—*Brian Hughes*, 18 years.

**Wellington.**—Miramar South School Branch of the Forest and Bird Protection Society which meets every week now has a membership of 30. Lively discussions are held and each member does a project concerning birds, plants, trees and all wild life. On Saturday, 12th July, 27 of our members went to Khandallah Domain for a picnic, and a very pleasant day studying trees and plants was spent by all.—*Lois Blatherwick* (President).

**Golden Bay.**—When in some very lovely bush, I noticed, on all the birch trees, that the bees were

very interested in the tiny hairs that protruded from the black velvety bark. On a closer examination, I saw tiny drops of nectar on the end of them, which tasted very nice, because we tried some.—*Angela Goulter*, 12 years.

*[The "tiny hairs" were thin hair-like tubes sent out by a small insect called a coccid which was sitting there sucking the sap of the tree. The "nectar", which is known as "honeydew", is the waste substances, including sugar, which the coccid does not want after it has got its nourishment from the sap. The velvety substance is a black sooty fungus which feeds on the nectar dropping from these tubes and the coccid is down underneath it poking the tubes up through it. Bees and birds like this nectar very much.—Ed.]*

**Hikurangi.**—One day while walking through the bush I suddenly spied a morepork eating a mouse. A hawk high up in the sky suddenly swooping down took the mouse and flew as fast as it could. The morepork seeing the mouse had gone, gave chase but soon gave up.—*Ian Venables*, 13 years.

**Great Barrier Island.**—There are quite a number of Oystercatchers living on our beach and up a tidal river near my home. One day while I was rambling along the edge of the sandhills I saw what I thought was a baby rabbit dart into an old driftwood box. I ran to the box, poked in my hand and dragged out instead of a rabbit a baby Oystercatcher. It was a fluffy grey speckled ball with long greyish legs and beak. Overhead the parent birds screamed and screeched at me. When I let the baby go, it ran along the sand to the parents which rushed to it with much fuss.—*Murray Mabey*, 10 years.

**NEW LIFE MEMBERS ENROLLED SINCE LAST ISSUE.**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Bakewell, Dr. R. F., <i>Carterton.</i>       | Heighway, S. H., <i>Hastings.</i>                | Sunderland, Mrs. R., <i>Havelock North.</i> |
| Chambers, R., <i>Havelock North.</i>         | Matthews, F. C., <i>Waitotara.</i>               | Taylor, A. D., <i>Wairoa.</i>               |
| Douglas, Dr. A. W., <i>Palmerston North.</i> | Russell, Sir Andrew, <i>Tunauui, Hawkes Bay.</i> | Tolhurst, G. M., <i>Wellington.</i>         |
| Firth, E. B., <i>Hamilton.</i>               | Russell, A. H., <i>Gisborne.</i>                 | Tosland, J. S., <i>Opunake.</i>             |
| Hawkins, D. H., <i>Tolaga Bay.</i>           | Spencer, S. D., <i>Te Karaka.</i>                |   |

**NEW ENDOWMENT MEMBERS ENROLLED SINCE LAST ISSUE.**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Aitchison, Dr. W. R., <i>Wairoa.</i>        | Hatherly, J. S., <i>New Plymouth.</i>       | Roberts, S. R., <i>Dunedin.</i>           |
| Albrechtsen, Mrs. E. C., <i>Eketa-huna.</i> | Haywood, P., <i>York Bay.</i>               | Shearer, Dr. J. S., <i>Richmond.</i>      |
| Armitage, H. B., <i>Auckland.</i>           | Helleur, W. Le Bon, <i>Hastings.</i>        | Sinclair, R. M., <i>Ongarue.</i>          |
| Atkinson, Mrs. M. H., <i>Eastbourne.</i>    | Hemmins, Mrs. W. M., <i>Dargaville.</i>     | Stubbs, Dr. E. S., <i>Oamaru.</i>         |
| Austin, Rev. H. W., <i>Wanganui.</i>        | Hobbs, W. B., <i>Hastings.</i>              | Teague, Bernard, <i>Wairoa.</i>           |
| Bacchus, Mrs. G. R., <i>Wharepoa.</i>       | Holdsworth, J., <i>Gisborne.</i>            | Trevarthen, Miss Glenda, <i>Te Aroha.</i> |
| Berridge, Miss R., <i>Marton.</i>           | Huthnance, P. J. S., <i>Lower Hutt.</i>     | Upton, Miss E. M., <i>Auckland.</i>       |
| Berry, Dr. J. Allan, <i>Napier.</i>         | Knight, Mrs. Rosa A. E., <i>Wellington.</i> | Van Asch, D. W., <i>Hastings.</i>         |
| Brice, H. K., <i>Nelson.</i>                | Lowe, Miss E. J., <i>Hastings.</i>          | Wairoa County Council.                    |
| Buchler, Dr. Marie P., <i>Lower Hutt.</i>   | McBride, Mrs. H. M., <i>Barrys Bay.</i>     | Warren, Mrs. D. S., <i>Featherston.</i>   |
| Cotterill, Mrs. G. E., <i>Gisborne.</i>     | Morrow, H., <i>Pahiatua.</i>                | Warren, H. G., <i>Whakatane.</i>          |
| Curran, P., <i>Kaikoura.</i>                | Musgrave, Mrs. Ethel M., <i>Woodbury.</i>   | Williams, J. H., <i>Wanganui.</i>         |
| Dove, Brig. W. W., <i>Auckland.</i>         | Nepia, Sister J. K., <i>Wairoa.</i>         | Woodhouse, Dr. P. R., <i>St. Andrews.</i> |
| Fussell, W. B., <i>Waiongona.</i>           | Richardson, C. T., <i>Masterton.</i>        | Yaldwyn, J. B., <i>Wellington.</i>        |
| Gibbs, Dr. J. Gordon, <i>Wellington.</i>    | Richmond, Mrs. S., <i>Seddon.</i>           |   |
| Goodwin, J. W., <i>New Plymouth.</i>        | Richmond, S. J., <i>Seddon.</i>             | <b>Correction (last issue)</b>            |
| Gordon, Dr. G. D., <i>Kaikoura.</i>         | Roberts, I. M., <i>Dunedin.</i>             | Felkin, H. M., not <i>Telkin.</i>         |
| Hall, Mrs. K. D., <i>Taihape.</i>           |   |   |

(The above Lists are up to 15th September, 1952.)

(Numbers now are: Life Members 402. Endowment Members 469.)

The annual list of Life and Endowment members accompanies this Journal to adult members.

**FOR SALE (Post Free unless otherwise stated)**

	Price		Price
ALBUM DEPICTING 24 FOREST-INHABITING BIRDS, in colour. In dark brown or maroon cover—state preference. (Retail price £1.)	15/-	"THE TAKAHE" (an Ornithological Society Publication)	5/-
Special price to members of Society -		"RICHARD BIRD AT SEA," by M. M. Atkinson	6/-
"THE WAIPOUA KAURI FOREST OF NORTHERN NEW ZEALAND," by W. R. McGregor	5/-	"RICHARD BIRD IN THE BUSH," by same	6/-
"PODGY THE PENGUIN," by L. E. Richdale	2/6	— PAMPHLETS —	
"THE TREES OF NEW ZEALAND," by L. Cockayne and E. Phillips Turner (Postage 5d.)	12/6	"THE CRIME AGAINST THE LAND," by Y. T. Shand	3/6
		"DESTRUCTION OF AN AVIAN PARADISE," by Mrs. Perrine Moncrieff.	2/6

**CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE.**

	Page		Page
Editorials—Waipoua Forest Sanctuary, National Parks, Manuka Blight	2	Bushmen's Names of Trees .. .. .	10
Cover Picture—Tui .. .. .	5	Quarterly Newsletter .. .. .	13
The Urewera Forest Area .. .. .	6	Miriam Ballard Memorial Essay .. .. .	14
Along the Track .. .. .	8	Percy Comes to Stay .. .. .	14
In Defence of the Harrier .. .. .	9	Waikato Winter Show Essay .. .. .	14
Debit and Credit .. .. .	9	Wonderful Wanderings of Wiremu W. Weka	15
		Junior Along the Track .. .. .	15



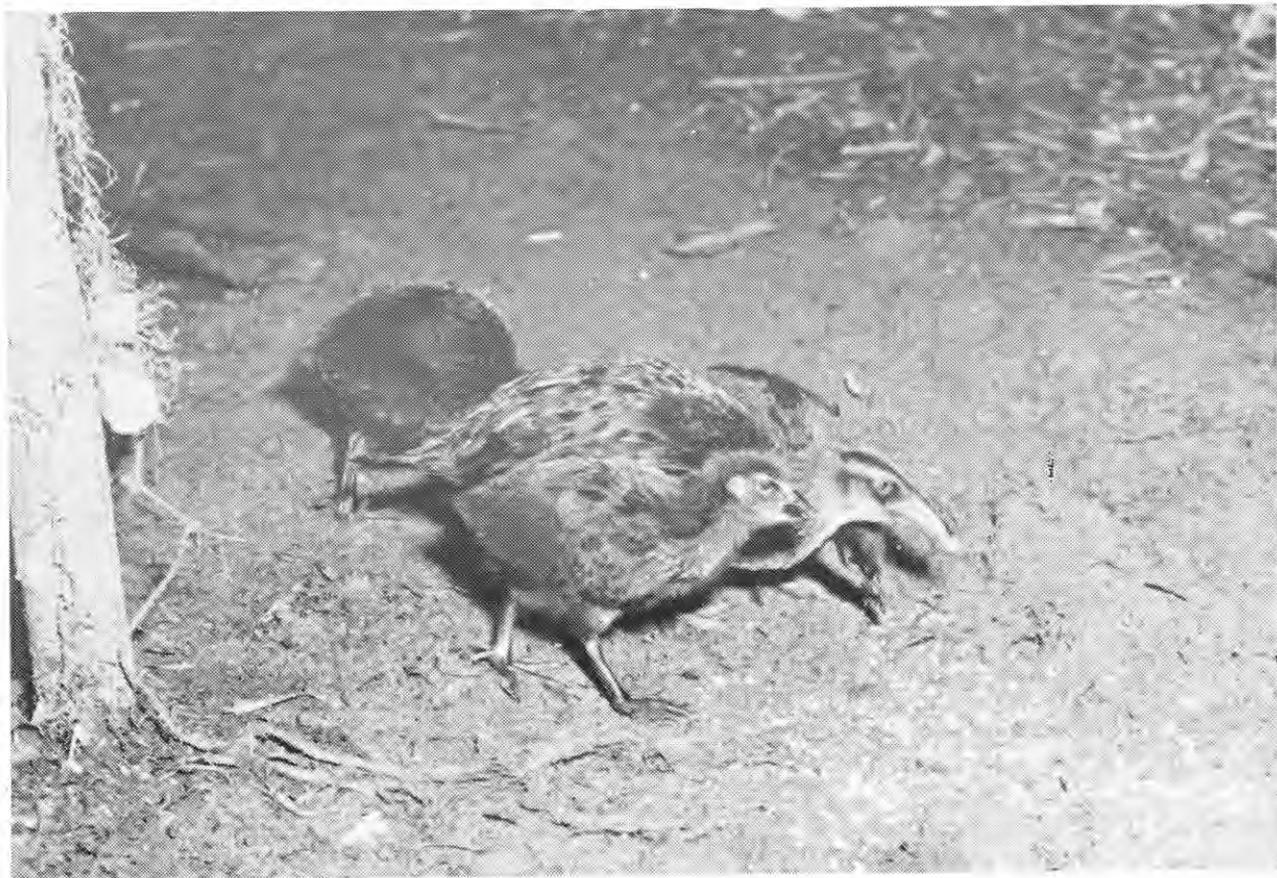
*Above.* Tui at honey-pot.

*Right.* Feather headdress! Mrs. Robinson of New Brighton, Christchurch, at her daily task of feeding gulls.

[Photos: Mrs. W. S. McGibbon.

*Below:* Weka with three chicks.

[Photo: Govt. Publicity.





Survivors of the Fire. Kahikatea (White Pines). The snowclad mountains showing faintly in the background are Mt. Tasman, centre, and Mt. Cook, right.

[Photo: C. C. Couchman.]