

made possible through the generous bequest of a former member, the late Mrs. I. Lenz.

Dr. A. C. Begg gave an illustrated talk about Dusky Sound—described by Andreas Reischek after his visit in 1884 as “the most striking and magnificent of the Sounds”—and in particular about its historical interest through the visit of Captain James Cook on his second expedition in 1773, when he stayed there for six weeks exploring, charting, and making the acquaintance of three Maoris. The speaker said the impression often given was that the history of New Zealand began with the activities of the missionaries in the north followed in 1840 by the Treaty of Waitangi, but there had been plenty of activity at Dusky Sound three generations before Waitangi.

Dr. Begg and a party visited Dusky last year, leaving Te Anau by float plane, which also proved very useful as a means of exploring the sound itself. Colour slides taken from the plane showed Lake Manapouri, Doubtful Sound, Dagg Sound, Breaksea Sound with the Tasman Sea in the distance, and a vast succession of sharp ridges, craggy precipices, and forested valleys, before the arrival at Dusky. The slides taken at the sound were linked with the various events of Captain Cook's visit—Indian Island, where Cook first met New Zealand natives (a man and two women), Pickersgill Harbour, where his ship *Resolution* was anchored for six weeks, Anchor Island, where he was first anchored, the spots where Cook's men shot seals and ducks for food, and many other points of interest. A short reading from Captain Cook's journal and that of the naturalist George Forster described in a touching way the manner in which Cook overcame the fears of the three Maoris and became friendly with them. Other slides of great historical interest showed paintings of the *Resolution* (by Roberts) and of the scenery, vegetation, and inhabitants of Dusky Sound by William Hodges, the artist with the expedition.

Dr. Begg's expert photography was also seen to advantage in a number of slides showing some of the vegetation at the sound, including the upright flower head of mountain flax (*Phormium colensoi*), the lustrous red berries of *Nertera*, a variety of fungi with very bright red and vivid blue toadstools and frilly types of fungi clinging to tree trunks, long trails of the orchid *Dendrobium cunninghamii*, and great clusters of the flowers of the scented orchid *Earina autumnalis*, which grows so profusely that in some places every branch of every tree is covered and the scent becomes almost overpowering.

### Waikato

During the past year this section has held outings once a month. These included visits to Te Aroha, Pirongia and Karioi Mountains. Two trips for the members were scheduled to the Society's Walter Scott Reserve on Pirongia Mountain. Working parties have spent many hours surveying, clearing the fence line, and carrying in the fencing materials. The fence itself is being erected by the boys from the Waikeria Borstal. On one Saturday the members planted 1,000 trees in previously prepared ground on the Bryant House Trust Board's property at Raglan. The board has decided to replant a hillside in natives rather than see it become weed infested. A trip to Pureora Forest,

which is approximately 70 miles south of Hamilton, was enjoyed because the plant associations found there were different from those of the Waikato area. The members enjoyed a very successful Labour weekend trip in 1963. This has been reported previously.

Two evening meetings with guest speakers were held at which Mr. J. Kendrick talked on the bird life on the Little Barrier and Hen and Chicken Islands, and Mr. E. E. Toleman spoken on horticulture in the Waikato. Interesting slides were shown at both of these two meetings.

### Wairoa

The Wairoa Section continues to be a very active group and all the outings and meetings held during the past twelve months have been well attended. Children continue to take a very active part in both meetings and outings. Most times we have as many children present as adults. It is very seldom that we have less than ten to twelve cars full of adults and children on outings. We had twelve outings and visited many bush areas, beaches, and a State forest during the year. On several occasions we have had working bees at Lake Waikaremoana to continue with the cutting of a second track up to Lake Waikareiti, following the stream most of the way.

Nine meetings were held and speakers spoke on the Taupo pumice shower, biological control, Urewera National Park, South Island slides, botanical names. Other evenings slides, including ones taken by members on outings, were shown. Six junior members gave short talks. We did not have a nature exhibition this year but at a Hobbies Exhibition we staged a comprehensive nature study display set in a bush setting complete with waterfall and bush pond. We are looking forward to another full and satisfying year for we have a very interesting programme arranged.

### Friends of the Urewera National Park

Last February at Lake Waikaremoana a well attended meeting decided unanimously to form an association to assist the Urewera National Park in any measures directed towards the preservation of the park and development of amenities for making the delights of the park more readily accessible to the public.

In just over two years that the board has functioned much has been done in the park to make it more enjoyable for all. The Urewera National Park is the second largest in New Zealand, being approximately of 483,000 acres. It is mountainous and covered with thick bush. Many species of our native trees can be found; for the park extends in altitude from less than 500 ft. to 4,500 ft. Naturally in a park of these dimensions progress without assistance must be slow.

The strength of the association naturally depends on its membership. Already 190 have enrolled from all parts of New Zealand. All who are interested in the park, which gives pleasure to all—sportsmen, botanists, photographers, picnickers, boat owners, and campers—are invited to contact the Hon. Secretary, Mr. N. W. Bishop, P.O. Box 10, Wairoa. All money raised by the association for park-board work is subsidised by the Government to the extent of £2 for £1.