

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

Vol.8. No.3.

June, 1951.

AUCKLAND BOTANICAL SOCIETY

HON. EDITOR: Marguerite W. Crookes, 31 Maungawhau Road,
Epsom, Auckland, S.E.3.

HON. SECRETARY: Mrs. P. Hynes, 54 Calgary Street,
Mt. Eden, Auckland, S.2.

LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS

The Annual Meeting of the Auckland Botanical Society took place on Monday May 7th at 8 o'clock. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, after which the Report and Balance Sheet were considered. Our Report shows that we have had an active and successful year, and our Balance Sheet reveals a financial position that is reasonably healthy, though it still shows the need of increased membership. The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers. The retiring President, Mr. L.H. Millener, proposed that Dr. V.J. Chapman be President for the succeeding year. There were no other nominations and Dr. Chapman was duly elected. The demanding duty of secretary fell once more on the capable and long-suffering shoulders of Mrs. Hynes. Our pleasure at the re-election of so competent a secretary is somewhat tinged with remorse that the willing horse should have been compelled to carry the burden for so long.

Much to our relief Mr. Butler again agreed to hold the position of treasurer, so our financial affairs need occasion no worry - apart of course from the need of more money. Previous members of the committee were re-elected, and we are glad to welcome Mr. Jollie back on the Committee once more.

In thanking the outgoing committee, appreciation was expressed in particular of the excellent leadership provided by Mr. Millener as President, the constant activities of Mrs. Hynes on our behalf, and the very efficient work of Mr. Butler. The meeting also expressed appreciation of the generous donations from different members of the Society.

After the business part of meeting concluded we were delighted to be taken a trip round the English countryside per medium of Mr. Millener's beautiful slides and moving pictures, which brought us the colour and charm of England throughout the

four different seasons. The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Millener, after which we repaired to supper.

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We are indebted to Mr. Brian Hamken and Mr. Rewi Moynihan for the following careful and detailed account of our trip to the Noises:

NOISES TRIP

Saturday 3rd March 1951. Leaders: Brian Hamken, Rewi Moynihan.

At the kind invitation of the W.E.A. Natural History Club a very pleasant and profitable day was spent at Otata, the largest island of the Noises Group. The attendance was so good that a few late-comers were unfortunately turned away as the launch was loaded to capacity according to its marine survey. Under sunny skies the launch cruised via Islington Bay past Motutapu and Rakino Islands, to the South-west beach of Otata Is. where, at the anchorage, all were safely rowed ashore under the capable direction of Capt. Price, but a few sterns were wet in the process.

Maps of the island prepared by the co-leader Mr. Moynihan were handed round to assist in our survey of the island. After one or two false starts the main party finally moved off up the valley behind Capt. Wainwright's bach. Interesting plants noticed on the way up to the plateau included large trees of whau (Fentelea arborescens), Macropiper excelsum, Geniostoma ligustrifolium, patches of Adiantum affine, the whole of this area being dominated by Meliccytus ramiflorus. Before climbing up from the valley floor there is an old spring which, although unattractive, would be valuable for castaways.

The upper plateau some 200' high is now covered by mixed shrubs 7 - 10' high. These have developed after a *Danthonia*-flax association which followed burning off in about 1934. Some of our members remember an intermediate strip of *Danthonia*, bracken, and flax covering scattered with Leptospermum, pohutukawa, Hebe salicifolia, and Coprosma robusta & Geniostoma. Now the shrubs have nearly coalesced to form a rapidly growing community. To the north and west of the plateau bracken still dominated. Also found on the high flat was a prostrate Pinealea, broomrape (Orobanche), Scirpus nodosus, and Wahlenbergia.

Following a survey of the Gulf from the trig (224') and