

A U C K L A N D B O T A N I C A L S O C I E T Y

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The Annual General Meeting of the Auckland Botanical Society took place in the Botany Theatre of the Auckland University College on Wednesday, May 2nd., at 8 p.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Then came the Annual Report which showed that we had had a full and fruitful year. The Balance Sheet disclosed our finances in a refreshingly healthy condition. The meeting then concentrated on the election of officers.

Our retiring President, Dr. L.H. Millener, had refused previously to accept nomination since he felt that the office of President should not be held by the same person two years running. But "circumstances alter cases" and Dr. Millener now finds himself President of the Historic Places Society. (Members will recollect with pleasure his delightful article Historic Trees of Auckland that appeared in the News Letter, December, 1955). As he feels that his continued occupancy of the Presidency would facilitate co-operation between the two Societies he stood for re-election.

With Dr. Millener duly re-elected the Society then considered the matter of our eight Vice-presidents and our nine Committee Members. As the 1956-57 Syllabus is now delivered, we will not list names but take this opportunity of welcoming Mr. I.A. Atkinson, a newly elected member to our Committee.

The Society once more breathed freely when Mrs. Hynes again allowed herself to be elected to the onerous post of Secretary and the meeting left her in no doubt as to its appreciation of her services during the preceding year.

Mr. Butler's acceptance of the office of Treasurer will ensure that our financial problems are dealt with with promptness and efficiency.

Business concluded, the meeting was treated to an exhibition of coloured moving pictures and "stills" taken by Dr. L.H. Millener during his recent trip to the South Island. Thus fortified we repaired to supper. Previous to this important concern the members recorded their appreciation of the work of Miss Joan Dingley and Mrs. L.H. Millener in undertaking the responsibility of preparing coffee. Dispensing with hired help in this matter improves both our finances and the quality of our coffee.

During the Annual Meeting, attention of members was drawn to the 32nd meeting of the Australian & New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held in Dunedin from 16th to 23rd of January, 1957.

Apart from the interest of Session Meetings additional pre-sessional and post-sessional tours will be arranged to places such as Milford Sound, Lake Te Anau, Queenstown, Mt. Cook and Rotorua. It is to be hoped that any members contemplating a South Island holiday will be able to join the Meeting. Mrs. Hynes has very kindly agreed that members seeking further information about that Dunedin gathering may ring her. Members are advised to make their decision as soon as possible as bookings must be made in good time.

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Prior to the Annual Meeting, Committee members stood in silence to mark the passing of three of our members who in times past have taken an active part in our meeting - Mr. Hannken, Mr. Leonard and Mr. Ward.

Mr. W.P. Hannken, a retired school teacher was a keen horticulturist and nature lover, and we were sorry indeed when illness prevented his further attendance at our meetings.

Mr. F.H. Leonard, also a horticulturist, was for a number of years a member of our Committee. He was well known as the very active Secretary of the Great South Road Beautifying Society. His energy and enthusiasm in this office was such, that on one occasion the Editor remembers the Chairman of that body saying at a meeting - "Mr. Leonard is not only Secretary of the Great South Road Beautifying Society - he is the Great South Road Beautifying Society." Certainly without him the Society could never have accomplished the important beautifying work to its credit.

Mr. R. Ward was always to be seen in the Museum about Cheeseman Flower Show time - invariably ready to give bountifully from his well-stored garden. For he was an able and most generous horticulturist and many an Auckland garden is the richer for some attractive shrub or plant first set on its way by his extremely green fingers.

Mr. E. Earle Vaile's services to his native city are too well known to need comment here. For us it is pleasant to remember that he was a foundation member of our Society.

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### Wanted!    Very Much!

Attractive schemes initiated by the Great South Road Beautifying Society include a plan to adorn the bare clay slopes of parts of the Southern Motorway by a covering of native plants. We need, then, seeds and more seeds for scattering on these unprepossessing banks. Berries, seeds, etc. of any hardy quick growing natives are required. Suitable species of coprosma, Pittosporum and tea tree for instance or spores of such ferns as Blechnum procerum would be in order. But remember, the accent is on quantity. As Mrs. Hynes sadly remarked after a sowing, "A large carton of berries went simply nowhere." So collect seeds and berries and either sow them or deliver them to Mrs. Hynes. Remember-this is a really worth-while cause awaiting the co-operation of members.