

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.

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.

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.

Botanizing in the Nelson District is becoming increasingly popular with members of the Society. Below Mrs. P. Hynes and Miss M. Barr and Mrs. B. Knight tell us something about their activities in that rewarding region.

A WEEKEND ON MT. ARTHUR.

Katherine M. Knight.

After a week at Arthur's Pass with the Auckland Botanical Society we spent several lazy days at Moutere, near Motueka. From there, we gazed up at Mt. Arthur and decided that, after our recent alpine experience this would be an easy mountain to climb.

We approached the mountain from the Nelson side, leaving the truck 2 miles beyond Ngatimoti, at 6 p.m. Two hours of steep climbing showed us that we were scarcely the veterans we thought we were. The track was well marked, but had no plants of botanical interest to divert us, except for introduced herbs such as horebound, Californian stink-weed (*Gilia*), and foxglove etc. These had no doubt been spread by the sheep which had for many years been driven to summer quarters on the extensive tableland.

Our goal for the night was the Flora Hut, c.3000 ft. About half way there, we passed into dense bush of the North Island rain forest type with nikaus, northern rata, kahakaha, (*Astelia solandri*) and several different tree ferns. These plants, and the heavy undergrowth had been missing from the forest at Arthur's Pass which we had been exploring the previous week. Instead of one species of beech, *Nothofagus cliffortioides* as at the Pass, there were four: *N. cliffortioides*, *N. truncata*, *N. fusca*, and *N. menziesii*. The red beech, *N. fusca*, ceased at 3,500 ft. while silver beech, *N. menziesii* continued on to the plateau in a tangled wind-swept form. Mixed with these beeches were many of our taller Podocarps: rimu, totara etc. Here, too, was *Senecio hectori*, with its deciduous leaves often one foot long, and its branches topped with white cineraria-like flowers. Peti-peti, *Blechnum discolor* was common on the track.

We awoke next morning to the sound of the deer stamping in the clearing around the hut. We were delighted too, to find that the wekas, which had been calling in the night, were plentiful and quite friendly in the daylight. While washing in the stream we found a nettle, *Urtica incisa* and *Olearia lacunosa* without the brown tomentum on the back of the leaves. By torch light we had passed this the previous evening as *Pseudopanax lineare*, so familiar from the previous week. From then on we met several hybrid forms of *O. lacunosa*, and *Pseudopanax lineare* was present too, as an undergrowth in the beech forest. I discovered later that a number of plants reach their Northern or Southern limit in this area: *Pseudopanax lineare*, *Ranunculus lyallii*, *Celmisia traversii* are a few examples of the former, while *Nothofagus truncata*, *Brachyglottis repanda*, *Laurelia novae-zealandiae* (pukatea) *Suttonia salicina*, (toru) and *Metrosideros robusta* (Northern rata) are examples of Northern plants not found below this district.