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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Firstly, please note my new address if you are sending in articles. We have moved up into the hills (above the frost and fog but below the clouds) and have a very pleasant half acre overlooking the city, with our own little piece of Waitakere bush!

Conservation Week will soon be upon us. It runs this year from July 28th - August 5th. An opening function will be held on Friday 28th in the Auckland Museum Auditorium at 8 p.m. There will be speeches by the Mayor, Sir Dove-Meyer Robinson and Mr. Hamish Keith, who both attended the recent Human Environment Conference in Stockholm. There will also be folk singing and supper. There is no charge for admission and all are welcome to attend.

August 5th will be Clean New Zealand Day, a joint effort by the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, the National Anti-Litter Council and the Nature Conservation Council to clean up litter in public places throughout the country. Any other interested groups are being asked to join in and local authorities are being asked to provide trucks to collect the rubbish. If you feel you would like to help, then get in touch with your local authority or a conservation group. Whilst on the subject of litter, a recent report quoted a visiting U.S. authority on litter as saying that it costs 30 cents to clean up a piece of litter in the United States.

The National Conservation Week Committee, in addition to its Conservation Campaign Newsletters, is printing a series of Activity Leaflets. The first of these was "Raising Native Trees from Seed" which is proving to be very popular, the second is "Recycling Waste Materials" which gives practical ways in which the individual can press for the implementation of recycling schemes, reduce the accumulation of waste material in the home, possible community activities, and waste disposal outlets. Five more leaflets are being prepared and two - "Protecting Historic Places and Trees" and "Land for Conservation Education" are ready for printing. Eventually the information contained in these leaflets will be combined and produced in the form of an illustrated handbook. Members interested in this information should contact the newly appointed secretary of the Committee, Mrs. S.C. Owen, Box 5014, Wellington.

What do YOU Think about the Forest Service's plans for the utilisation of the South Island beech forests. On the one hand we have the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society which, whilst welcoming some of the proposals such as the one that forests over 2500', protection forests and forest on slopes of more than 26 degrees will not be interfered with, flatly opposes plans for clearing and felling beech forest, burning off what remains and re-planting with exotic timber trees. The Society does not oppose the principle of developing a forest industry in Nelson and on the West Coast, but it feels that scrub and marginal land could be better used for planting exotics and that the beech forests could be managed to produce timber for pulping in perpetuity. With properly managed extraction all the wood pulp required for a viable industry could be produced without the extensive damage they see resulting from the proposals as they stand at present.

On the other side are people like the Labour M.P. Mr. Blenchfield who obviously welcomes the proposed development and

sees it revitalizing the depressed West Coast area.

Surely both sides could be satisfied by a sensible compromise and it is a comment on the present climate of awareness of the need for conservation in New Zealand that the proposals are being properly discussed beforehand, rather than being sneaked in through the back door and presented as a fait accompli! If any members have strong views on this matter, please write and let me know.

Mr. L.W. Butler. Those of you who haven't yet heard will be sorry to know that Mr. Butler has been in hospital recently for an operation. He is now back home again and we wish him a speedy return to good health.

Mr. A.D. Mead. We shall shortly be saying a reluctant goodbye to Mr. Mead who is going to live with his daughter in Wellington. We shall sorely miss him and his wide knowledge of the Waitakere flora in particular, just as I am sure he will miss this part of the world. We wish him all the very best for his new life in Wellington, and hope that he will still keep in touch with us.

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#### BOOK REVIEW

"THE MOSSES OF NEW ZEALAND," by K.W. Allison and J. Child ( Otago University Press, \$6.60. 1971. c.150 pages.)

For those who have had difficulty for many years in the attempt to identify mosses, this book will be an important and useful addition to the somewhat meagre supply of books on mosses.

The plan of the book is similar to a very successful book by Watson on English mosses and liverworts and for each genus mentioned illustrates the main species with a line diagram and brief description. Notes are given on other species in the same genus which are also likely to be found.

Particularly useful is the illustrated discussion of the various terms used in descriptions of the parts of the moss plant as well as a list of habitats and various characteristic features which allow easy recognition of some species. A set of keys is also provided at the back of the book as an aid to the identification of the various species.

A selection of photographs is also presented as an additional guide to some of the commoner species and this will prove useful when dealing with some species, though with others it will be difficult to tell anything more than general habit from the photograph ( eg Plate 7 Fissidens rigidulus, Plate 25 Orthorhynchium elegans ).

There is a tendency to compare this book with the somewhat similar one on lichens, but this is perhaps unfair as many of the differences can probably be attributed to the publishers, this book being on rather expensive, glossy paper and printed in New Zealand becomes a more costly example than the lichens book. The main point in common is the useful way each fills a gap that has been present so long that most people have almost come to accept it, and I hope that they will stimulate a new interest in these small, often colourful and extremely varied plants.

J.E. Braggins.