

Motion put before the Monthly Meeting of the Auckland Botanical Society
6th. June 1973.

That the Secretary write to the Waitemata County Council re the planned use of Duck's Quarry and adjoining land as a rubbish tip, and ask the Council to reverse its decision to use the area for this purpose. This Society submits that the Council should seek for more suitable areas or, in collaboration with the A.R.A. and/or other local bodies, investigate the feasibility of using more modern methods of rubbish disposal which are less wasteful of space and cause less pollution of the environment.

The reasons supporting our request can be summarised as follows:-

1) As a society concerned particularly with botany of the Auckland region we believe that an area such as the Waitakere Stream marshlands with its particularly interesting plant life should be preserved in a state as little modified as possible. Among the interesting plants present are the bladderwort (*Utricularia*), raupo (*Typha*), reeds (*Scirpus*) as well as the tall jointed twig rush (*Baumea*) and the large club rush: also the tall rush (*Juncus*) and grasses such as sweet millet (*Isachne*) and sweet grass (*Glyceria*). Other plants present also are water milfoils (*Myriophyllum*), primrose willow (*Ludwigia*), swamp lily (*Otellia*), swamp forget-me-not (*Myosotis*) and the water speedwell (*Veronica*).

In the opinion of botanists the proposed tip will jeopardise and probably destroy the essential character of the marshlands of the Waitakere Stream.

2) The tip is to be located on top of a major tributary of the Waitakere Stream. Although much of the stream water will be carried in pipes underneath the tip and some of the rain falling directly on the tip will be drained to the sides, it is unavoidable that the tip will produce a toxic and dangerous liquor. Treatment of this liquor in oxidation ponds may remove the potential hazard to human health from it, but such treatment will not remove much of the material poisonous to animal and plant life. As all the drainage from the tip is, according to the plan, to eventually lead into the extensive marshland below Black Bridge, it is unavoidable that accumulation of these toxic materials will occur and we believe that progressive destruction of the essential character of this area will follow.

BETHELL'S SWAMP

Miss. M. CROOKES.

On March 17th, the Society visited Bethell's swamp. On leaving the bus, we walked a short distance to the swamp edge, where the first thing that engaged our attention was the little free floating