

Well-attended annual meeting and council meeting in June

THIS YEAR'S annual meeting, held in Wool House, Wellington, on 12 June, was well attended by councillors and members of the Society from throughout New Zealand. Only one of the 38 branches was not represented.

THE President, Mr A. A. T. Ellis, Q.C., who officiated, welcomed participants. With him was the deputy president, Dr A. Edmonds, and the national treasurer, Mr D. J. Underwood.

Speaking to the annual report, the president referred briefly to the failure of the merger proposals in January and his letter to members to that effect. The continued growth and strength of the Society in these troubled financial times were indicative of the balanced concern of people and made the Society's role vital to the future of the forests, birds, and natural features of New Zealand.

He referred to the up-date of the annual report for the 3 months to the annual meeting regarding the impending increase in head office staff. He spoke of the difficult year that had passed and of the assistance received from the Environmental Defence Society and from the Society's membership of the Joint Campaign on Native Forests, which had made it possible for the depleted head office staff to cope with the task.

Mr Ellis expressed his warm appreciation of the loyalty of the staff and said that the hours they had worked were far beyond the call of duty and had shown their dedication to the cause.

He said that 1983 would be the Society's diamond jubilee

year and that this would be coupled with a large jubilee fund-raising drive, which David Collingwood, who had been organising it, would describe to the council. Mrs Olga Langford, the national secretary, had retired in February and there would be a Society presentation to her at the council. Mrs Joan Leckie had taken over as national secretary and he welcomed her to the meeting.

A member from South Taranaki Branch spoke on the Society's journal and suggested



Mrs Olga Langford thanking officers, staff, and friends for a presentation and buffet lunch on 5 February, the day of her retirement after 9 years of service to the Society as national secretary.

changes. Many views were expressed by members, and the president ruled that these suggestions would be noted.

The president referred to the completion after 3 years of research of the kokako report by the Society, prepared by Rod Hay, and said that it had been welcomed by the Minister as useful in the Government's final decision to reserve the Pureora forests.

In October last year the Society had been represented at the historic General Assembly of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) at Christchurch and had taken a significant role as New Zealand's oldest member of this world body.

Changes to constitution

After the annual report and statement of accounts had been accepted the meeting dealt with changes to the constitution.

COUNCIL MEETING

At the council meeting which followed the annual meeting it was announced that Mr Ellis (president), Dr Edmonds (deputy president), and Mr Underwood (national treasurer) had been elected unopposed.

Executive elected

The following executive of 10 was elected from 22 nominations:

Messrs D. Appleton, H. F. Heinekamp, R. C. G. Janes, J. V. Jerram, G. Loh, S. B. U. McKenzie, and J. Newton, Professors A. Mark and J. Morton, and Mrs M. Peace.

Presentation

During the election the president called the retiring national secretary, Mrs Olga Langford, to the rostrum. He referred to her 9 years of service to the Society, carried out so assiduously and always with friendliness and with a well-organised administration she had developed during the testing period of Society growth.