

1920s to pass tests and learn camp craft.

It was through the friendship of the late Miss Crowther and Maire that she bequeathed the beautiful Brookfield camp site, with its wonderful bush, to the Wellington Scout area and until recently Mr Nelson was camp warden. He planned and developed it to the fine asset it is today.

Started Conservation Week

Few citizens realise that Conservation Week came about through Scouting. The Chief Executive Commissioner in 1968 was Mr Selwyn Field, brother of the late Cliff Field, who was Society secretary at the time of the fiftieth jubilee.

Mr Field attended the Idaho World Jamboree in the U.S.A. and saw the great work being done in the education of young people and others through Government-sponsored conservation trails, one of which every boy at the jamboree covered and wrote about. He came home with copies of the literature and posters and set about getting people interested, including the Government through the Department of Lands and Survey.

Conservation Week was born so that practical work could be encouraged and wide publicity given to the need for greater interest in the environment. The brochure *This Precious Land* was published and issued by the Scout movement, and each year since, Scouting has played a vital part in publicity planning and in the programme.

At first there was no Government funding, but when the Conservation Week committee was established and an office set up in the Department of Lands and Survey, Government started its \$30,000 to \$40,000 annual grants to promote the week. (Unfor-



Daily Telegraph, Napier, photo

Another tree-planting project. Napier Cubs planting trees donated by the Napier Tree Society in 1978 to mark the fiftieth jubilee of the Cub Section of Scouting.

unately the economies of 1982 have resulted in the cessation of these grants.)

So Conservation Week was born by voluntary effort and a tremendous amount of hard work and so it is again. Most of the initiative came from Scouting — and its sister movement, Guiding.

The official publication *Scout News* has a special issue each July publicising the week and includes a supplement known as “Show and Do Ideas”, which goes to schools and various interested organisations to motivate them. The movement adopted the World Conservation Badge as part of its training programme and since 1969 Cubs, Scouts, and Sea Scouts have won conservation awards.

Many reserves of native trees in New Zealand were started by the movement in conjunction with the local body. Even many colleges which have stands of native bush and trees in their playgrounds for educational purposes have Scout people to thank for the first plantings or the suggestion that native trees and plants should be part of the educational programme.

The Correspondence School was influenced by Scouting many years ago to include conservation in its nature study programmes, and Lone Scouts and Guides have been involved in this aspect.

Scouting has always been a leader in out-of-school education. Baden-Powell's ideas