

established a fund to be used to fight local bush fires regardless of land tenure or responsibility. It is hoped that intensive activity (monsoon buckets and the like) at an early stage may short-circuit a fire.

The East Harbour Environmental Association has set up a list of observers who will monitor or control renewed activity after a fire or call for reinforcements. Radio telephones are available.

Strips of land along roadsides have been cleared of gorse and planted with non-burning vegetation such as karaka, flax, taupata, and agapanthas.

Tree lucerne seed is to be spread on burnt ground. Other

areas studied which have a cover of tree lucerne have no gorse and have good regeneration of natives underneath. Tree lucerne was chosen because it is fast growing, non-burning, leguminous, short lived, and attractive to seed-dispersing wood pigeons.

Further work needed

The recovery of areas in native plants would be aided by:

- Public recognition of the importance of regenerating forest "scrub" to allow high technology methods to be used at an early stage.
- The provision of legislation to ensure a decrease in uncontrolled burn-offs.

- Scientific studies on the best way to regenerate native forest after fire instead of using gorse as a nursery. The information published in the *Revegetation Manual* by the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust is an important start in these studies.
- The use of infra-red detection systems to show the presence of hot-spot activity.

The ideas adopted by Eastbourne are given here in the hope that they will be of use in other localities. The problems raised need resolving and the information so gained would need to be available to councils and the like.

This surely is a matter in which the Society could play a part. ■

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