



South Pacific Appeal

Returns from the appeal have been very encouraging, as have the positive comments from our thousands of contributors. Some examples: "Congratulations to Dr Alan Mark and his excellent letter – many members will be as inspired as we are by it." "I am glad to see your entry into a coverage of the Pacific, where I have noted a necessity even greater than here for immediate management and control of forestry."

By the beginning of October the appeal total stood at \$30,000. Our Pacific Forest Conservation Coalition is now developing a strategy to use this money most effectively; by the February magazine we should be able to inform members on progress.

This appeal was a novel one for the Society in that it asked New Zealanders to look beyond their immediate neighbourhood; the good response highlights the close community of interest between this country and the South Pacific. To those thousands who did contribute, thank you. The Society is now in a position to try and stem the horrific destruction of some of the world's precious tropical rainforests.

Rare.



KEA PARROT (Nestor Notabilis)

HATCHED 1982 and 1984

2 SEXED PAIRS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

The kea pictured could not be further from its South Island high country home. This advertisement was lifted from an American magazine *Watchbird*, and offers "2 sexed pairs currently available." The Wildlife Service says that all kea exports are illegal and has no idea where this bird could have come from. It's a sad day when we see our increasingly rare "high country monarch" being offered for sale. Meanwhile, we are still waiting for the announcement from Internal Affairs Minister Peter Tapsell that the kea has been given full protection — a promise he vowed to fulfill before the end of the year. We urge members to write to the Minister to remind him of his pledge.



Wairoa and Gisborne branches combined for a special Conservation Week field trip to the Mahia Scenic Reserve – a magnificent oasis of coastal broadleaf-nikau forest amidst the barren and eroding East Coast hill country farmland. Here Gisborne branch chairman Alan Webster introduces younger members to the plants and animals on the reserve.
Photo: G McSweeney

Protected Natural Areas Programme

Only one new survey for the Protected Natural Areas Programme will be carried out in the 1986-87 financial year due to Government funding cuts. One of the essential ingredients for environmental protection in New Zealand, the programme aims to establish a series of protected areas to preserve the country's ecological diversity. It covers both public and private land.

Meanwhile, however, reports on past surveys are slowly trickling out. Members interested in knowing what is special about their region can write to the Department of Lands and Survey, Private Bag, Wellington, for a copy of the Egmont (ring plain area) ecological region report (\$8), and Otago's Old Man ecological district report (\$13).

Spotted grouper protected

The wondrous Kermadec Islands spotted grouper, featured in the August edition of *Forest and Bird*, has been given full protection by Government from commercial fishing. The grouper, which grows as long as 1.2 metres, is very vulnerable to fishing pressure. It changes sex from female to male about halfway through its lifespan, measured at between 30 and 50 years.

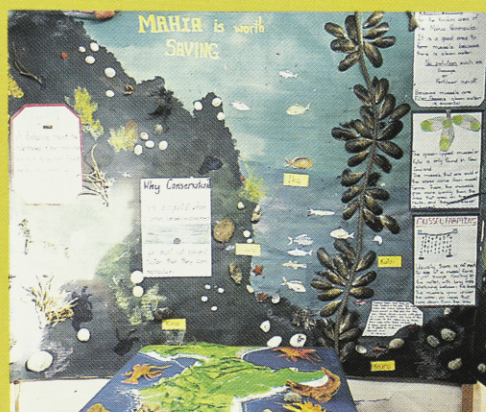
Spotted grouper protection was one of three proposals aimed at protecting the marine life of the Kermadecs; the other two, yet to be decided on, are to ban commercial fishing (except for tuna) within 12 miles of the Kermadecs, and to prohibit fishing for hapuku and bass within the 200-mile zone around the Kermadecs except by special permit.

Conserving our future

The theme of Conservation Week this year was very much in the minds of hundreds of schoolchildren in the Wairoa region, 24 schools contributing displays and posters to a magnificent nature exhibition organised by Forest and Bird Wairoa branch.

The hundreds of displays, together with others from Forest and Bird, the Wildlife Service, World Wildlife Fund and the Forest Service, were visited by all the schools in the region over three days. A lecture programme focused on Conserving for the Future — including discussion on threatened species, conserving marine resources, erosion prevention and afforestation.

Exhibition organiser Doug Heighway was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm for the event. "We were amazed at how many schools contributed to the display and by their very high standard. The concern shown for our coastlines, soil and native plants and animals is good news for the future," he said. It's obvious that conservation awareness is very high in rural New Zealand.



The winning display in the Wairoa Conservation Week nature exhibition. Te Mahia School, from the Mahia Peninsula, focused on the vital importance of conserving our marine resources. Photo: G McSweeney

Conservation News

Are you an active conservationist? Do you want to hear about the latest developments in conservation, who's making the decisions and why? For the latest in up-to-date information, subscribe to *Conservation News*, the Society's monthly newsletter. Cost: \$6.60. *Conservation News* — the story behind the scenery.

Photographers!

Have you got the high quality professional photograph/s we want for our 1988 New Zealand Nature Heritage Calendar? We would like to see them. The theme of the calendar is on threatened and distinctive species and their habitats from throughout New Zealand. We are looking for variety — in other words snails, native frogs, lizards, wetas, birds, plants, landscapes.

If you think you have an outstanding colour slide, please send them to Forest and Bird Calendar, PO Box 631, Wellington. All care will be taken. A small payment will be made for photos used and these and any not used will be promptly returned by registered mail.

Conservation Staff