



## Obituary: Robbie

Many conservationists will miss Sir Dove-Myer Robinson (Robbie), who passed away recently at the age of 88. He was instrumental (with Prof. Ken Cumberland) in founding our Central Auckland branch 43 years ago, and was in many ways a far-sighted and effective conservation activist.

Both before and during his many years as Auckland City councillor and mayor, he led the 10-year battle to stop the proposed scheme for discharging bulk sewage into the Waitemata and to bring about instead the Mangere treatment works (advanced for that time, though now needing improvements). To quote from two standard books on the specific and the general histories: "Robinson and his confederates were conservationists almost before the term was dreamed up... All of the organised protest movements which have subsequently intervened either in Auckland affairs or on environmental issues derive some of their skills from Robinson's and the (Drainage) League's campaigns."

A very early and vigorous opponent of fluoridation, Robbie also showed earlier judgement than most in opposing nuclear power. He paid for the distribution of many copies of the best book on the subject to leading citizens in 1972. But in addition to resisting wrongful technology, Robbie also worked hard to affirm right living. Through the Soil Association and in other ways he promoted composting – domestic, and in the (only recently shut-down) Auckland City rubbish-composting plant. Robbie was the inaugurator and first chairman of the Auckland Regional Authority whose finest achievement may be the creation of many outstanding regional parks. He campaigned long for a rapid rail system, because of his concern over fuel wastage and pollution by cars. This concept is, in 1990, at last being seriously considered by Auckland authorities.

His eldest daughter is a member, and a niece is a former secretary, of our branch.

Robbie was on the right side of more environmental issues than any other politician of similar rank.

**Bob Mann, Chairman Central Auckland**

## Annual General Meeting

The 66th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on June 23 1990, at the Airport Hotel, 16 Kemp St Kilbirnie, Wellington at 8.30 am. The agenda will be as follows:

1. Declaration of Councillors
2. Confirmation of minutes
3. Annual Report and Statement of Finances
4. Remits
5. Appointment of Auditors

This will be followed by the National Council Meeting.

The Annual Report is enclosed with this magazine.

## Obituary: Dr C. Hughes-Johnson

Dr Cuthbert Hughes-Johnson's death last December will be keenly felt by the Wanganui Branch and the Society.

One of Wanganui's oldest members, whose early enthusiasm and energy contributed to the promotion and formation of the Wanganui Branch, he served in many capacities over the years. An active committee member at his death, he had been both Branch Chairman and Councillor, having represented it last in 1982. Following his retirement from medical practice in 1985, he devoted even more of this time to local conservation issues, which included mounting of displays at local shows. He headed a subcommittee involved with Conservation Week activities, and personally distributed material to schools in the greater Wanganui area. Actively involved in replanting programmes, he led an annual pilgrimage to Westmere Lake, and at other locations including the Wanganui Riverbank and seaside reserves.

Bushy Park, from its inception, was another of his loves, and for many years he served on the park's management committee. More recently many hours were spent with others carrying out voluntary work at the park.

His early contribution to the cause of conservation, both locally and nationally, earned for Dr Hughes-Johnson Distinguished Life Membership of the Society. By his tireless efforts, he enthused many.

**Ian Bell**

## J.S. Watson Conservation Trust Grants

The Trust invites applications from individuals or conservation groups for financial assistance for conservation projects over the 1990-91 year.

The criteria for assistance are:

1. The conservation of plants and animals and natural features of NZ.
2. The advancement of knowledge in these matters by way of research, literary contribution, essay or articles, or other effort.
3. General education of the public to give them an understanding and love of the earth in which they live.

A total of \$10,000 is available and at the sole discretion of the trustees this may be awarded in whole or part to one or more applicants, or held over for a subsequent year.

For further details and application forms, write to PO Box 631, Wellington. Applications close July 31, 1990.

## Correction

In our November 1989 magazine we incorrectly stated that bellbirds had become extinct north of the Waikato. In fact they occur on the Coromandel Peninsula.

## Bird and Mammal Rescue Wellington

The Department of Conservation's Wellington Conservancy proposes to hold a meeting to discuss a volunteer programme to treat and care for sick, injured and young birdlife.

The mammal unit will be staffed independently.

If you are interested, please write to: Wellington Conservancy, Department of Conservation, PO Box 5086, Wellington.

## Forest & Bird Magazine

Members often ask questions about the production of *Forest & Bird* magazine. Bascands of Christchurch, who have recently taken over printing of the magazine, boast an environmental record that no other New Zealand printer can match.

The ovens on the printing presses emit waste gases, which are fed into a combustion chamber fuelled by LPG and ignited at 700° celsius. The recirculating hot water system surrounding the chamber provides 80 percent of the company's heating. Gases are purified upon combustion and the 99.6 percent cleansed air filters invisibly into the atmosphere.

Because so much paper is wasted by printers, Bascands installed a recycling system. Large pipes extract paper excess from the ends of the presses and bindery units. Suction draws the paper up to a cyclone drum where rotary knives slice up the wastage. Paper clippings then spiral down to the baler, and are compressed and strapped for transporting.

*Forest & Bird* is produced from paper milled from sustainable yield Scandinavian forests.

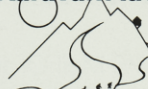
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## Bird Watch

Half day and full day bird watching trips from Wanaka and Queenstown from \$25. Parakeet, kea, mohua, creeper and other forest birds may be seen. Also birds of open spaces. Tours 2-7 days arranged to see black stilts, wrybill, kaka, white herons, royal spoonbills, penguins, albatrosses and lots more. From Wanaka, Queenstown and Christchurch.

## Wilderness Tramping

In South Westland, 2 to 5 day hikes up the Landsborough and Cascade Rivers, Douglas Trail and Cattle Track. Into the RED HILLS or HAAST TO HOLLYFORD, 7 to 11 days. Leaving from Wanaka or Haast. From \$20 to \$80 per person per day depending on food and transport requirements. More information on bookings from Andy Anderson, Box 1, Tarras, Otago, or phone (03) 4452825 or (03) 4437277.

## RUAPEHU COTTAGE AND HOMESTAY

### Skiing and Family Holidays

Comfortable cottage for 6-8 with excellent facilities, or homestay in the house, in beautiful, peaceful surroundings at Horopito, 2km off S.H.4, half way between Auckland and Wellington, 16 km both Ohakune and Raetihi. The 3.2 hectares on the boundary of Tongariro National Park includes bush, streams, pond and magnificent view of Mt Ruapehu. Perfect location for family, tramping and adventure holidays, skiing or just relaxing. For leaflet and bookings contact Conon and Jackie Fraser, Matapuna Rd, Horopito, RD6 Raetihi. Tel: (658) 54495.

## Adventure with Tim Round

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## Pioneer Tour to Tangarakau

Let Macanz Tours, Wanganui, take you on a five day tour of discovery into our scenic back country. Native orchids and the rare kokako bird are to be found in this area. Tours first week every month of the year.

Enquiries to: Macanz Tours, PO Box 36, Wanganui (064) 44194