



Nature Question-Time

MANY'S the specimen-in-a-matchbox that Kauri, "the big old tree," and Weka, "the inquisitive bird," have identified for young Wellington listeners since *Nature Question-time* was heard for the first time on May 3 last year. Occupying the second half of the Children's Session at 2YA (or 2YC when Parliament is sitting) on alternate Wednesday evenings, this fifteen-minute programme is arranged by the New Zealand Forest and Bird Protection Society, with the co-operation of the NZBS.

The fortnightly broadcast takes the shape of a forum with two permanent members, and one or two visiting scientists each time. Kauri, known to grown-ups as A. P. Harper, veteran mountaineer and president of the Society, chairs the session. Weka, who is R. H. Carter, the Society's secretary, reads out the questions sent in by children, which the visitors answer.

National Publicity Studios photograph
ABOVE: Dr. R. A. Falla, A. P. Harper, and (right) R. H. Carter, at the microphone during a session of "Nature Question-time" from 2YA

A considerable and increasing "fan mail" leaves no doubt about the popularity of the programme at home and abroad. Weka is never stumped for questions. Station 2YA's Children's Session is re-broadcast on shortwave, and inquiries about New Zealand wild life, and the habits of bird and insect have come from as far away as the Chathams and Samoa. Questions, some of which come from adults, all show a widespread interest in nature and a high standard of observation.

Listeners to these broadcasts have heard some of New Zealand's foremost scientists as guest members of the forum. Botanists, zoologists, geologists, agricultural scientists, an astronomer and a "weather man" have given their time on various occasions throughout the year to the programmes, which owe much of their initial success to the help and encouragement of the late Mrs. Evans, "Aunt Molly" of 2YA.

NEWS BROADCASTS TO KOREA

RADIO New Zealand broadcasts to K Force are being received well in Korea and have an effect "as good or better" than a letter from home, according to letters being received by the NZBS. "As you might imagine it gives us a great thrill to be able to hear familiar voices and place names once more," one letter says. Another speaks of "a large and happy gathering around the Battery Office vehicle" to listen to the news. Several letters refer to a broadcast in which Aunt Daisy was heard—part of a programme about the Wellington television demonstrations. So that even those on the guns will be able to hear the broadcasts, extensions have been taken up to the gun positions, and items of news are passed on by those able to listen to those who cannot. The broadcasts have also been acknowledged by the New Zealand frigate *Rotoiti*.

Radio New Zealand broadcasts for the Kiwis in Korea and for New Zealand frigates in Far Eastern waters a quarter-hour news bulletin at 10.30 p.m. N.Z. time (7.30 p.m. in Korea) every night except Sunday. On Saturday night at 9.30 p.m. N.Z. time, a half-hour programme *Calling Kiwis in Korea* includes a quarter-hour round-up of senior Rugby, League and Association football and

hockey results from the main centres, and the main racing results, and a programme by New Zealand artists, with newsy comments by the announcer on events at home.

Ulric Williams, who is in charge of Radio New Zealand, told *The Listener* that reports that the station was being received well in Korea were very gratifying. However, shortwave reception could change with the seasons, and reception might not always be as good as it had been, especially as the station's power, 7.5 kilowatts, was comparatively low.

The NZBS is also helping to keep New Zealanders at home in touch with K Force. Tape recordings made in Korea by the Army Public Relations Staff, describing the life and work of K Force, are being received (though not, because of supply and communication difficulties, at regular intervals) and are broadcast as they come to hand at 8.10 a.m. on Sundays, after the overseas news. In recent broadcasts a regimental intelligence officer has described the fighting characteristics of the Chinese soldier, and the work of an aerial observation officer spotting for K Force guns, and of the signal and dental units and similar services, have been discussed.

N.Z. LISTENER, MAY 25, 1951.



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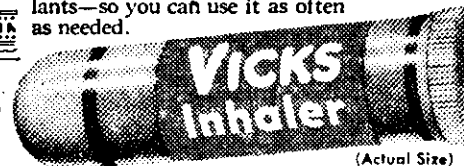
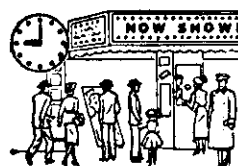
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