

of the water but, of course, this would be risking prevention of entry to the watershed. It was therefore resolved by the Executive in 1975 that the Federation should seek adequate safeguards for the recreational use of water by an analysis of each classification as it was issued. Appropriate action would then be taken accordingly. It was further suggested that the Federation could appoint advisers to assist local clubs in objecting to water classification. A request was also made to the Water Resources Council and respective Water Authorities seeking a copy of pending schemes, and requesting invitations to explanatory meetings before the schemes are publicly notified.

When in 1978 the Wellington Regional Water Board proposed the creation of two lakes at Te Marua, north of Upper Hutt, water would normally come from the existing closed Hutt River catchment. However, in times of low river flow water would be drawn from the lower Hutt River resulting in an additional river closure to public access for that period. The Federation, along with local clubs, objected to the proposed access restrictions. A sub-committee of the Board which heard the objections agreed that there should be no restriction of access — a decision which was most gratifying to the Federation and its member clubs.

Representations have also been made to the Auckland Regional Authority for access to the Hunua and Waitakere Ranges without as yet the same degree of satisfaction. The Federation has supported the Auckland clubs in their submissions before the Authority's planning committee in objection to the District Scheme.

### **Review of Objectives:**

It is a matter for regret that after fifty years of Federation work and despite the development of national parks and forest parks, the use of mountain land for recreation remains by courtesy of adjoining landowners, even though in the majority of cases members of clubs affiliated to the Federation continue to enjoy the privileges and goodwill that have existed for many years.

In reviewing the objectives of the Federation in 1975, however, the Executive confirmed that it was essential that adequate access be maintained to recreational lands throughout the country. The application of the Walkways Act is an example of how this can be achieved by negotiation.

## **5.5. CONSERVATION OF THE BACK COUNTRY ENVIRONMENT:**

### **Early Preservation Issues:**

One of the early aims established by the Federation was that native plants and animal life should as far as possible be preserved and that

introduced plants and animal life should as far as possible be exterminated. Development of Parks and Reserves for recreation should be undertaken only in conformity with this principle. No rights or privileges should be granted for commercial purposes if they might prove detrimental to the natural features of a park or might unduly restrict the public rights of using the park for recreation.

Because of this practical interest in conservation of native fauna and flora, it was appropriate that the Federation should be associated with other organisations of similar aims, such as in 1933 when G.B. Wilson and G. Ryan were appointed delegates from the Federation's Executive to the New Zealand Wild Life Council; and again in 1937 when it was resolved that application be made for membership of the National Council for Conservation and Amenity Planting. Support was also given to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society on conservation issues of concern to that society. In 1950 the Federation was asked for an indication of interest in the formation of a Nature Protection Council initiated by the Society, resulting in the attendance of B.D.A. Greig at the first meeting of the Council in September 1951 as the Federation's representative. However, proposals by the Nature Protection Council to become a full member of the International Union for the Protection of Nature were not supported by the Federation's Executive which expressed its concern for national, not international matters. Nor did it support a proposed National Trust for New Zealand because of its interest only in natural features of the country. By the same principle a proposal to establish a trust fund for preservation of special features such as waterfalls, rock formations, outstanding patches of bush or coastline, was worthy of greater consideration.

### **Hoardings in Country Areas:**

In 1956, a controversial issue arose in Canterbury with the erection of a massive hoarding which completely blanketed Parapet Rock, a prominent feature on the West Coast Highway. Public protest and the resulting publicity did not deter the business firm which it claimed had an agreement with the lessee of the land for displaying the advertising sign. The Canterbury University Council who owned the land, the local County Council and the District Roads Board all found that they had no power to control or prohibit such an arrangement.

Early in 1957 when the hoarding was still in place, the Federation became involved through its affiliated Canterbury Clubs. A meeting was convened in Christchurch which appointed an action committee of A.P. Thomson, G. Riley, T.T. Robins and S. Wood to effect the removal of the sign as soon as practicable. While specifically dealing with the Parapet Rock incident, the sub-committee recommended to the Executive a much wider course of action. As a result letters were sent to the New Zealand Counties Association seeking support for the control of hoardings in

county areas by adopting appropriate by-laws under the powers within the Counties Act of 1956. The Lands and Survey Department was asked to insert restrictive clauses in any run-holding leases coming due for renewal and the National Roads Board was asked to reconsider the question of hoardings on land under its jurisdiction. The appearance of hoardings in the vicinity of Tongariro National Park was also included in the concern at the time. Details of these incidents were fully reported in Bulletin no. 1, 1957 with a follow up article in Bulletin no. 3 in 1958.

The results were most gratifying with several counties taking immediate action on passing suitable by-laws. It is significant that the scenic back-country of the South Island is almost completely free from hoardings of any sort for which the Federation can take much credit.

### **Lake Manapouri:**

Interest in conservation issues over the next few years continued to wax and wane with irregular meetings of the Nature Protection Council and there is no doubt that the crunch point came in 1960 when the Federation was asked to attend a meeting called by the New Zealand Travel and Holidays Association to discuss industrial developments in the scenic areas. It was in that year that the Government had proudly announced an agreement between Consolidated Zinc Propriety Ltd and the Government for the use of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau for hydro-electric power with the statement that the "public's recreation rights are not curtailed in the lakes flooding".

The meeting was attended by L.D. Bridge who reported back to the Executive that it was the most depressing conference he had ever attended — no useful purpose was served and it seemed that the Minister would do little in regard to Manapouri unless great pressure was exerted by the people. It was suggested at the conference that it was presumptuous on the part of lay people to query what had been achieved by the power agreement. However, the conference did call for the establishment of a Conservation Authority on which scientific, travel, National Parks Authority and mountain users would be included, with representatives of Forestry, Lands and Works Departments.

During the debate in Parliament on the agreement, which was supported by both parties in the House, a member of the Opposition, versed in law, remarked that the "protection of scenic beauty" clause was "so loose there was no guarantee that avoidable damage would not result". The following year, after a change in Government, an agreement was reached on growth removal prior to raising the lake level, but as there would be an upper limit set on expenditure for lake clearance, the Federation view was that this limit negated the effect of such an agreement. In 1962 the Nature Conservation Council was established by legislation. During the second reading of the Bill, reference was made to the world-wide problem of reconciling industrial development with nature



Lake Manapouri. The Federation's concern over hydro development began in 1960 and proceeded through ten years to the start of the Save Manapouri Campaign. It marked an increasing concern for protection of the back country environment.

*National Publicity Studies*

conservation and the controversy over the Manapouri project emphasised the great need for a statutory body, with experts in the field of nature conservation, to advise the Government as to the likely effects of proposed industrial projects on scenic areas. The Council was thus a recommending and advisory body and acted as a clearing house for the views of various organisations concerned with the preservation of scenery and places of scientific interest.

At the annual general meeting in 1965, the President, A.R. Craigie, was recorded as saying "We cannot as a Federation sit idly by while the sacrifice of national scenic assets continues. The safeguarding of our national assets of forest, lake and mountain country is one of the main objects of the Federation. The increasing pressures of an expanding population present a threat to some of our most cherished scenic areas. The Federation must campaign vigorously and fearlessly for a greater public awareness of the need for nature conservation". By this time the Executive was becoming alarmed that the case for preservation of Lake Manapouri as outlined by the Nature Conservation Council and supported by the National Parks Authority was not being heeded by Government. It endeavoured to strengthen the constitution of the Nature Protection

Council and of the Nature Conservation Council by the inclusion of more scientifically qualified persons, but in the case of the latter authority the Federation's request was declined by Government.

In 1969 the Executive came out in strong support of the stand by the Nature Conservation Council on Manapouri power and resolved to supply all clubs with a resume of the information collected to date, with the request that they express their opposition to Government action. Bulletin no: 34 containing this information was distributed prior to the election in 1969, with personal copies to Chief Reporters of all daily newspapers. The resulting publicity was gratifying to the Executive, especially when three months later the "Save Manapouri Campaign" was officially launched at a public meeting in Wellington at which copies of Bulletin 34 were handed to all who attended. A.J. Heine represented the Federation for the National Save Manapouri Conference held in March 1970, assisted by D.B. McDonald and M.S. Milne. Many members of affiliated clubs were active in the regional "Save Manapouri" committees set up throughout the country.

The annual general meeting in 1970 confirmed the whole-hearted support for the continued action by the Executive of Federated Mountain Clubs for the preservation of the normal lake level of Lake Manapouri. The President of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association acknowledged that the Federation had been "well to the fore in the Save Manapouri Campaign, that the Federation had been fighting for Manapouri over the previous ten years and so it was not just a rejuvenation and this should be made quite clear to the public in general". Submissions on behalf of the Federation were made during that year by the President, R.W. Burrell, to the independent Commission of Inquiry and to the Parliamentary Select Committee hearing the petition organised by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

#### *A Conservation Association:*

While the Save Manapouri Campaign was still active, the Executive in September 1970 considered the next step in the issue of conservation. It resolved that all member clubs be urged to support the formation of conservation societies in their district; that the Federation take the initiative in establishing a National Association of Societies concerned with the protection of the environment; that this national association could be on the same lines as the Nature Conservation Council or extending it in lieu of the Council with servicing by a Government Department. However, it was later accepted that any continuing conservation proposal should provide a body to keep together the groups formed to 'Save Manapouri', and the annual general meeting in 1971 endorsed support for a proposal for a National Conservation Alliance as suggested by the convenor of the Federation's newly formed Environmental Sub-Committee, A.J. Heine. The

resulting body called the Conservation and Environment Conference (COENCO) held its first meeting in December 1971 at which the Federation was represented by the President, R.W. Burrell and Environment convener, A.J. Heine. The Federation's membership of COENCO as a Class A member was ratified by the annual meeting in 1972 where it was stated that COENCO was the means of presenting a co-ordinated approach to conservation but that the Federation should not free wheel on any matter after handing the work over to COENCO, which it was claimed had an ability to bring many diverse groups together. In the initial year of operation, concern was expressed that club members were not being made aware of the activities of COENCO and the Executive agreed to undertake the task of producing news releases for distribution to clubs, the first of which was available early in 1973.

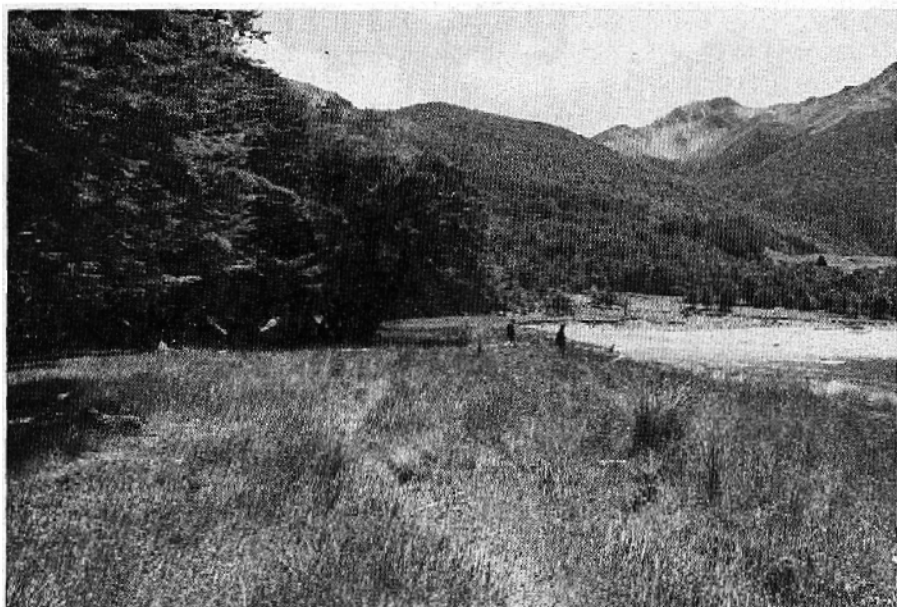
The Federation continues to be an active member of COENCO, now renamed ECO (Environment and Conservation Organisations) and was one of the signatories to the constitution of ECO as an incorporated society in 1978. A.J. Heine continued as the Federation's representative until 1977, when H. Barr, who is now the current Chairman, was appointed.

### **The Environment Sub-Committee:**

Prior to 1970, the year of Manapouri, conservation matters were handled by the Federation's Reserves Committee with special representative appointments being made to organisations such as the New Zealand Wild Life Council and the Nature Protection Council. However, in this year the Environment and Conservation Committee was established as a standing committee of the Federation. It took over the functions of the Reserves Committee and added to it matters of an environmental nature including, of course, involvement in the development of COENCO. Manapouri had highlighted the increasing conflict between recreation and commercial development in our mountain areas, and again indicated the continuing need for that concern expressed at the Federation's formation. Roding developments, indigenous forestry, mineral exploration, hydro-power schemes came under close scrutiny to check the absolute need for such development.

#### *Roding:*

The demand for extensive new road construction seemed to be never ending. The Federation's principle had been expressed in its policy on Parks and Reserves where in general, roads should be constructed to the perimeter only and walking tracks continue within the Park. Conflict of interest appeared in several regions. One of the more controversial issues occurred in the Lake Wakatipu area where the Queenstown to Glenorchy road had been completed and the Dart River bridge was under construction. For what purpose? There was a suggestion that a road would link Kinloch to Te Anau through the Greenstone Valley. No



Slip Flat in the Greenstone Valley. Roading proposals would have changed the recreational and scenic values of the area. Bruce Crothers

information could be obtained from the Ministry of Works or from the local County Council. As the Greenstone was a popular tramping area, the Federation became concerned and countered with an alternative proposal through the Von River Valley. The annual general meeting of 1972 gave the Executive a mandate to proceed with objections if the scheme affected the Greenstone valley. An approach was also to be made to the Fiordland and Mt. Aspiring Park Boards for support. In due course the objection was lodged and after being turned down by the County Council it was carried through to the Appeal board. The result was a suggestion that the various bodies involved get together in an endeavour to resolve the issue.

Other proposals further south included an extension of the road down the Hollyford Valley and the Jackson Valley. It could be assumed that these would eventually link up. The Federation opposed both, especially with respect to the Hollyford where one of the best walking tracks in the country existed and where access to the Olivine wilderness area would be made too easy. Perhaps the time was right for an approach to New Zealand Forest Service for the creation of a South Westland Forest Park. The Executive supported the view of the Mt. Aspiring Park Board that roading extensions should be deferred until long term plans were formulated for the entire North-West Otago.

The proposed Heaphy Road and Akaroa Summit road were also

considered by the Federation as being contrary to recreational interest. As a result of the widening of the Flora track for a road in the North-West Nelson Forest Park, the Federation called for greater control on roading proposals in all Forest Parks.

#### *Utilisation of Indigenous Forests:*

Proposals for the utilisation of beech forests of Southern Nelson, northern Westland and western Southland were put forward by the New Zealand Forest Service in 1971, but it was not until March 1972 that the Executive became aware that such a proposal could be in conflict with established recreational use by members of affiliated clubs. Many mountain valleys were zoned for felling and 211,000 acres of beech and podocarp forest were to be converted to exotics in the West Coast; 136,000 acres in Southland. A report was prepared by L.F. Molloy and A.J. Heine for distribution to clubs for comment. By July 1973 the Federation had enough information to declare its opposition to certain aspects of the proposals even though the matter was also being considered by COENCO. A delegation from the Executive, consisting of L.F. Molloy, A.J. Heine, R.G. Barrowclough and R.L. Scott, discussed the issue with the New Zealand Forest Service and achieved the removal from the scheme of four "finger valleys" of over-riding recreational values. At the same time, the Federation declared its continuing support for COENCO in the broad policy of opposition to the beech utilisation scheme until crucial scientific, recreational and economic information had been produced and publicly evaluated. By the end of 1973, the South Island Beech Forest Management and Utilisation Council had been formed to study all aspects of the scheme. Executive member L.F. Molloy was appointed as the nominee from the Federation.

At the same time the New Zealand Forest Service released proposals for the conversion to exotics of large areas of indigenous forest in the Kaimai Ranges. The Federation fully supported the objection of the Waikato and Tauranga member clubs even though the Executive was not convinced of the arguments for a Kaimai National Park. The mounting public furor over the loss of much indigenous forest in both North and South Islands forced the Forest Service to release a new Indigenous Forest Policy at the Forestry Development Conferences in November 1974 and May 1975. Executive member L.F. Molloy was invited to give the keynote paper on forest recreation and several members of the Executive played a full part in the policy deliberations.

Government subsequently adopted the new policy, which effectively meant that indigenous forests were to be maintained for indigenous timber or other conservation or recreation values. Over the period 1975-77 the proposals for large-scale utilisation of the beech forests of the West Coast and Southland gradually collapsed and the limited supply of podocarp timber (rimu, matai and kahikitea) timber on the West Coast became





Red Beech Forest, Maruia Scenic Reserve, which is typical of the lowland beech forests threatened by the scheme for the utilisation of South Island Beech by N.Z. Forest Service.

*Les Molloy*

apparent. In terms of recreational values this meant the possible loss of much of the dense lowland forests of the Punakaiki/Porarari limestone basins, Okarito and Waikukupa in Westland and Pureora, Waihaha and Whirinaki in the North Island.

On the West Coast, polarisation was acute between milling communities and conservationists. Matters came to a head at a major forestry conference in Hokitika in July 1977 at which L.F. Molloy and F.E. Gallas were spokesmen for Federated Mountain Clubs. In its subsequent submission to the Minister of Forests the Executive made a strong case for the preservation of most of the important natural areas of recreational value, but accepted the need to fulfil existing logging contracts by the judicious use of some podocarp and beech forests. These views were fully

explained in Volume I of the Federation's Recreation Plan (see Section 5.2) which was published in June 1979.

In the North Island a similar Forestry Conference was held in Taupo in March 1978, attended by L.F. Molloy and M. Belfield on behalf of the Federation. This conference led to the formation of the Pureora State Forest Park on the Hauhangaroa Range and dealt with the future of the Waihaha and Whirinaki basins. During 1979-80, the Federation supported, unsuccessfully, attempts to have Whirinaki added to the Urewera National Park.

The indigenous forest controversy involved many members of the Federation's Executive and its affiliated clubs. The latter part of the decade saw the emergence of a strong forest conservation movement



The Matakaitaki Valley. In 1973 the Federation was successful in pressing for the withdrawal of this "finger valley" from the beech scheme because of its recreational value. The unmodified parts of the valley are now incorporated into the Nelson lakes National Park.

*Les Molloy*

which allowed the Federation to concentrate its effort on the protection of recreational values under a broader environmental umbrella. The controversy will probably continue into the 1980's and the current involvement of the Federation is on the future protection of the forests of the Buller, North and South Westland through the provisions of the three forest management plans of these areas.

#### *Mineral Exploration:*

When in 1970 the Government introduced the new Mining bill setting out the relationship between prospecting licences and mining licences, the Executive was kept informed of the representations made by the National



Red Mountain and the Olivine Range in the Red Hills Area, which is outside the Mt. Aspiring National Park. The Federation has been concerned at mineral development and has advocated its inclusion within the Park boundaries.

*Les Molloy*

Parks Authority to safeguard scenic, historic and scientific values in Parks where there could be an interest in mineral exploration.

During submissions on the Bill in 1971 the Federation declared its opposition also to mining in National Parks as being contrary to the spirit of the National Parks Act, 1952. The Environment and Conservation committee was asked to examine how this principle could be implemented in terms of the new Mining Act. Information was collated and forwarded to clubs for their information. Some concern was expressed by individual delegates in 1972 that the Federation had not taken more positive action in declaring its opposition, especially for areas such as the Red Hills which were outside national park jurisdiction.

Objections to the issue of licences in areas of recreational value were lodged over the next few years. By 1977 it was clear that a Mining Amendment Bill was necessary because prospecting was not being permitted in National Parks because of a lack of safeguards. The Executive authorised the President, G.G. Claridge, to make a submission on the bill on behalf of the Federation. The issue of prospecting licences continue to be examined critically by the Executive.

By 1981 mining was becoming a major issue in areas such as Coromandel and the West Coast where tourist and farming interests were beginning to see it as a major threat. A Mining Amendment Bill was introduced and should be passed this year. It was felt that the Federation had achieved a measure of success in that a mining right should not necessarily automatically follow a prospecting right.

#### *Protection of Rivers:*

In order to boost the power output of river catchments, the Government encouraged local Power Boards to build and operate hydro-electric schemes.

While the Federation recognised that hydro-electric power had many environmental advantages, some of the proposals brought forward have drastically changed the recreational use of upper river valleys. It was evident that the Federation, in conjunction with its affiliated clubs in the area, would need to consider each proposal on its merits and act accordingly. Two such proposals at an early stage were the Hurunui River and Otaki River headwaters. The Otaki proposal was vigorously opposed and may have now lapsed.

During the late 1970's the issue broadened into a campaign for the protection of Wild and Scenic Rivers. The initiative for the move was taken by the New Zealand Canoeing Association and the Commission for the Environment. In mid-1977 J. Bryant and L.F. Molloy presented the Federation's concern for wild river protection to the conference of the New Zealand Electrical Supply Authorities, and in January 1978 a meeting of water recreation organisations was convened in Christchurch by D. Henson.





Wild water canoeing on the Motu River.

Mike Savory

While the Federation's interest lay primarily in the protection of 'wild' headwaters of rivers, it was appreciated by the Executive that many clubs ran canoeing trips on rivers like the Wanganui, Rangitikei and Clarence. During the 1979-80 period, the campaign increased and government belatedly released a "Wild and Scenic Rivers Policy".

With the accent on large industrial developments and the demand for increased power supply it was felt that hydro-development of many of the country's smaller rivers again constituted a major threat, for example, the Motu River near East Cape which was rated by the New Zealand Canoeing Association as one of the five best canoeing rivers in the country. The Raukumara Range through which it flows is recognised by the Federation as the last major wilderness area in the North Island. Hydro development on the Motu River would destroy this value. It is probably in the electricity short North Island that major recreational rivers are at risk. Rivers of importance for tramping include the Mohaka, Ngaruroro, Waipawa, Waiohine, Tauherenikau, Otaki and Manganui-o-te-ao, as well as the Motu.

At present there is no way of protecting rivers from hydro-electric development — no permanent protection category guaranteeing that a

river will be preserved, as there is in other countries under special legislation. Such protection from development would be comparable to that achieved for land under the national park status. Such a concept for permanent protection of wild and scenic rivers is new and not likely to be accepted without a great deal of pressure from a concerned public. Stop-gap amendments were prepared under Water and Soil legislation but these were not considered to be wholly satisfactory. An adverse feature is that the Minister of Works would assume powers for declaring Wild and Scenic Rivers, but this would be in direct conflict with his responsibility for approval of the construction of hydro schemes.

To continue the campaign, the Federation joined with other water recreation organisations to sponsor a "Save the Rivers" Conference in Wellington in March 1981. Resolutions adopted included an outline of the type of rivers protection legislation to be sought and the establishment of a Wild and Scenic Rivers Action Committee to plan and organise a national campaign.

In the meantime a discussion paper was prepared for the Executive by J. McConchie for distribution to clubs in an attempt to define the natural resource, wildlife and scenic values of a river. In this way the Federation hopes to have formulated its opinions in anticipation of a submission when legislation is introduced.

#### *Land Use Studies in Mountain Areas:*

By 1974 the issues being discussed by the Environment and Conservation Committee were so numerous that action groups were formed and allocated to the various subjects under study. In reviewing the Federation's activities, the Executive confirmed its objective of representing the views of recreational mountain users by completing the Federation's Recreation Plan, safeguarding the environment for recreational pursuits and giving a lead and guidelines to member clubs to enable them to constructively use available legislation such as the Town and Country Planning Act.

An "Environment 77 Conference" held in Christchurch in February 1977 was attended by representatives of the Executive and a major effort was made to present papers on a number of issues of concern to Federated Mountain Clubs. Subjects included were:-

"Forest Parks in New Zealand — an evolving concept" by A.J. Heine and L.F. Molloy.

"A Case for Wilderness Preservation in New Zealand" by L.F. Molloy

"Conflicts Arising from Planning or Lack of Planning for recreation on Montane Lands" by A.S.D. Evans.

"The New Zealand Walkway System and the Public" by B.R. Hunt.

"The Conflict between Recreation and Proposed Water Utilisation Schemes in the Tararua Ranges" by J. Bryant.

"An Account of the Heaphy Controversy" by D. Henson.

About this time, partly as a result of pressure from the Federation and other environmental organisations, Government was beginning to institute a number of land use studies such as the N.W. Otago/S.Westland/Southern Lakes Roving Advisory Committee. F.E. Gallas attended a meeting of the committee and reported back in March 1977 that despite pressure from tourist interests in the Greenstone —Hollyford — Jackson roving proposals, the Federation's contribution was largely instrumental in the framing of the satisfactory recommendations finally adopted by the Committee. In view of the number of critical issues in this and other highly important mountain regions, the Executive resolved that where necessary, Regional Planning Groups be formed to produce publishable reports on recreational resources urgently needing conservation in those particular areas and to consider the impact of roving, mining and tourism upon existing or potential national or forest parks.

As a result a Regional Planning Group was set up immediately for the region between Haast Pass/Hollyford/Te Anau/Queenstown convened by R.A. Falconer. A second Regional Planning Group was also established under D. Henson for the Canterbury area following a request from Lands and Survey Department for the Federation's views on the future use of the high country around Lewis Pass and on the wilderness area of unoccupied crown land in the Rakaia/Rangitata/Whataroa/Wanganui region. A third group was established for North Westland/Nelson/Marlborough under F.E. Gallas, while other groups were considered for the Central North Island and for Taranaki.

Considerable discussion occurred at the annual general meeting in 1978 on the Federation's policy on conservation issues. There was a feeling from some clubs that the Federation had become too involved and was spending too much time and money on conservation issues. However, other clubs felt the Federation was not spending enough time and money on mountain conservation issues and that the combined voice of the affiliated clubs needed to be heard by Government. There were some who considered the big problem was the long standing one of communication between the Executive and member clubs.

Whatever the case, the work of conservation and environment had evolved from 1970, the year of Manapouri, although perhaps this had largely resulted from an awareness of a "wilderness diminishing" and of the increasing conflict between commercial exploitation and mountain recreation. By 1981, environmental issues have become so broad that they tend to arise over a range of sub-committees. The Environment Sub-committee of the 1970's has been replaced by an Environment Co-ordinator (A.J. Heine) who ensures that issues are allocated to sub-committee convenors or otherwise dealt with if they are outside the standard sub-committee role.

## **Recreation/Mountain Conferences:**

During 1977 two major conferences of considerable importance to the Federation were held. In August in Wellington the Outdoor Recreation Planning Symposium was organised by the Department of Lands and Survey and the New Zealand Council for Recreation and Sport. A feature of the Symposium was the release of the major study of recreation in Marlborough. The Federation was represented at the Symposium by J. Featherstone, F.E. Gallas, A.J. Heine, J.C. Heine, J.N. Jennings, P. Quinn and L.F. Molloy who gave an address on the "Recreation Needs of Trampers and Mountain Users". The Symposium was very useful in bringing the Federation into contact with other recreational groups, some of whom do not share the view of mountain clubs on the proper use of our back country.

Later, in November 1977, a week long conference on the "Conservation of High Mountain Resources" was held at Lincoln College under the sponsorship of Government, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the Tussock Grasslands and Mountain Lands Institute. This was a major policy meeting, with international participation, to attempt to formulate a policy on the future use of New Zealand's mountain lands. The Federation was represented by A.J. Heine, L.F. Molloy, J. Strang and A.P. Thomson. The keynote address on "Management for Recreation and Tourism" was given by Molloy and all members of the Federation delegation played a very active part in the Recreation Working Party chaired by Thomson. The conference formulated a draft policy which was ultimately adopted by Government early in 1979. Once again the conference was valuable as a forum for the Federation to promote the views of mountaineers on conservation; at the same time the exercise helped all interest groups merge their differences, at least in terms of policy formulation, for the long-term good of our mountain resources.