

ISLANDS OF THE GULF

New Zealand ornithologists undoubtedly regard the islands of the Hauraki Gulf as some of the most important of native bird habitats. Across my desk came recently a wonderful packet of pamphlets issued by the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board which watches over most of the islands of the Gulf extending from the Poor Knights in the north to the Alderman Islands in the south-east and including such well-known and well-loved places as Rangitoto and Kawau. A series of booklets deals with each island in turn, its geography, history and unique features including Maori legends and even a history of wartime coastal defence establishments. Professor John Morton has written on the coastal biology of several islands in his own inimitable style. Members of the OSNZ will find these papers of great interest. Those responsible for their appearance must be commended for their enterprise, setting a fine example for other regions. As the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board Act 1967 states, the Board is committed to "Administer and control the park in such a manner as to ensure to the public the maximum and proper use and enjoyment of the park consistent with the preservation of its natural features and the protection and well-being of its flora and fauna." These pamphlets are evidence of the Board's good intent. An informative newsletter is being issued three times a year and it, together with the other publications, may be obtained from the Information Officer, Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board, Department of Lands & Survey, P.O. Box 5249, Auckland.