corporated into the complete study of this area already made available by the ARA. The information showing the distribution and abundance of the animals and plants does provide a firm baseline for measuring the effects of any changes in physical conditions which might occur in the future as a result of reclamation of pollution, a baseline which would, in fact, be envied by biologists faced with examining or predicting such effects in other parts of New Zealand. Let those of us who love Wellington Harbour take note!

Miss Bacon, author of this study, is unique; perhaps not in herself but rather in the position which she holds. So far as I am aware the ARA is the only local body employing biologists on its staff. I believe that the day should come, and quickly, when the biologist is regarded as a "professional" with all that the term connotes in ethics, integrity, standards of practice and behaviour, just as we have come to expect from lawyers, architects, doctors and engineers. The day must come also when the biologist is sought as a staff member of every local body or planning authority to enjoy the role of responsibility in environmental matters at present the prerogative of the engineer and the accountant.

This report from the ARA is, therefore, tremendously important, not so much in its content as for its format in that it sets a standard and a pattern for other local bodies to follow, perhaps to improve upon, and certainly to learn from.

E. W. D.

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Mauri Ora, Vol. 1, 1973. 155 pp., illus. Christchurch: The Biological Society, University of Canterbury. Annually, $1.50.

Outlets for publication of natural history investigations are relatively few in New Zealand. We have a choice between a small number of society journals, "Records" of the municipal museums, the DSIR journals, or the *Journal* of the Royal Society of NZ, the last three series of periodicals being regarded as the acme of scientific publishing in this country. University-based and student-sponsored periodicals, however, are now playing an important role in encouraging undergraduates to cut their teeth on the techniques of communication of the results of their researches and investigations. This is, perhaps, the most important task of the professional scientist; the clear and unequivocal paper will always be a pleasure to read and study, and the attainment of this end must be the duty of every young scientist. The university journals have much to commend them in helping such a hope to become reality. The Field Club of Auckland University has published *Tane* since 1948; Victoria University of Wellington has its *Zoology Publications, Tuatara,* and the student-organised *Bulletin of Natural Science;* the Otago University Students' Association produces *Science Record;* each of the journals is of a different nature and between them do a valuable service to science. Now the Biological Society at the University of Canterbury has entered the field with *Mauri Ora,* a new journal whose name "signifies the Maori concept of the soul of Nature, and pays tribute to an ancient tradition attuned to the indigenous flora and fauna of our shores, streams, and forests."

Mauri Ora resembles *Tane* in that it is largely a vehicle for publication by members of the Biological Society with contributions " from other sources at the invitation of the Editorial Committee." The Editorial states: " *Mauri Ora* is expected to be an annual journal, devoted to the publication of papers on original research in biology, and this first issue represents a milestone in student biological research in the University of Canterbury. Its main purpose it to provide a journal in which undergraduate student research projects and graduate research can be published and circulated to a wide scientific audience. Its appearance expresses a confidence that suitable contributions will continue to be forthcoming, and it is the journal's policy to offer contributors a consistent and accurate presentation of their work."

We congratulate the Biological Society on this venture and wish it every success in the difficult task of producing and maintaining a regularly-appearing journal.

A look through the contents list reveals a wide range of topics including — an editorial outlining a history of biology in University of Canterbury, coinciding with the Centennial of the University celebrated in May 1973; the ecological niches of the Manuka and Kanuka, a paper of considerable interest to all biologists concerned with patterns of distribution and environmental gradients; a review of the breeding biology and population dynamics of the Weddell Seal; movements and social behaviour of the opossum; helminth parasites of eels; energetics of captive house mice; and, a comparison of nutrients in leaves and litter of beech forests. Of particular interest to those concerned with birds are the following articles: " The distribution of the blue duck . . . in the South Island: a preliminary survey " by R. E. Fordyce & G. A. Tunnicliffe; "Observations on nesting sites of the welcome swallow . . . Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury " by O. R. Hughes; " Sub-fossil avian remains from two limestone caves in North Taranaki " by C. D. Paulin. Special attention should be given to Geoff Tunnicliffe's review of " The avifauna of Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury." This paper gives a comprehensive review of the literature and examines the status of the 129 species recorded from Lake Ellesmere including some discussion of the record of the Banded Stilt *(Cladorhynchus leucocephalus)* based on a specimen in the Canterbury Museum. Important comments are given on the probable causes of changes in numbers of Black Swans and Canada Geese, and on the effects of lake level and predators. Suggestions for future work are offered including an examination of the role of Lake Ellesmere as a major wader habitat particularly in relation to future proposals for man-made modification of the Avon-Heathcote Estuary which might be regarded as acceptable by those planners who envisage Lake Ellesmere as an alternative habitat for the South Island Pied Oystercatchers and Bar-tailed Godwit now so characteristic of the Christchurch estuary system.

Mauri Ora, even if it proves to have so short a life as the *Waikato Earth Sciences Journal* or even the *Bulletin of the Auckland University Zoology Department,* has already earned its place in the literature of the natural history of New Zealand. We look forward, with anticipation, to the next issue due in 1974.

E. W. D.