

NEWS

CENTENNIAL AWARDS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL SCIENCE BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Hydrological Society is a Member Body of the Royal Society of N.Z., therefore it has a duty to acquaint its members with activities of national importance. These Awards fall easily into this category.

The purpose of the Awards is to stimulate and encourage original scientific work and to recognize scientific achievement in New Zealand secondary schools. They were established in 1967 to mark the Centenary year of the Royal Society, and will be awarded annually. The Awards are available to students who have passed the University Scholarship or Bursary Examination and expect to undertake a University degree course in New Zealand.

(1) The candidate placed first shall be awarded:

The Royal Society Centennial Medal.

Books suitably engraved, to a value of not less than \$25.
Free membership for five years of a Member Body of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The opportunity to work for a period of three weeks in a selected scientific institution, preferably in the May vacation of the year of the award. During the period the award-winner shall receive the necessary travelling expenses and salary at the ruling rate for vacation employees.

(2) Up to five candidates shall be awarded:

A Royal Society Centennial Merit Award Certificate.

Free membership for three years of a Member Body of the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The opportunity to work for a period of three weeks in a selected scientific institution, preferably in the May vacation of the year of the award. During the period the award-winner shall receive the necessary travelling expenses and salary at the ruling rate for vacation employees.

The Awards shall be presented publicly by the Royal Society of New Zealand.

The project should be a scientific investigation undertaken voluntarily by the student in addition to school studies, and it may have its beginnings at any time during his school career. It may cover any field of science and may start from some observation or question and lead by the application of scientific method to a satisfactory explanation or conclusion.

Full details may be obtained from the General Secretary, Royal Society of N.Z., Box 196, Wellington.

LOCAL BRANCHES OF THE HYDROLOGICAL SOCIETY

In keeping with views expressed at the 1967 Annual General Meeting the Committee has subsequently ruled in favour of the setting up of Local Branches of the Society. It has recommended that steps be taken at an early date to initiate Local Branches in Hamilton, Napier, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Members in these centres will be contacted with a view to convening a meeting to discuss the proposition.

SPECIALIST GROUPS WITHIN THE SOCIETY

Some consider that Specialist Groups should be recognized within the Hydrological Society. Certainly there is a great benefit to be derived if members with closely related special interests can be brought together from time to time. For a start it is necessary to know those who have special interests and whether they would be interested in a Specialist Group.

Those interested are asked to notify the Secretary.

HYDROLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

The following is a breakdown of the membership figures of the Society.

New Zealand:	Members	.....	.....	119
	Affiliate members	.....	.....	85
	Student members	.....	.....	27
	Total	.....	.....	231
Overseas:	Members	.....	.....	17
	Affiliate members	.....	.....	61
	Student members	.....	.....	4
	Total	.....	.....	82
Total membership	.....	.....	.....	313

FLOODS AND DROUGHTS

This is the title for the 1968 symposium of the Hydrological Society to be held in Wellington near the end of the year. Nineteen papers have been selected for presentation. Six are devoted to droughts, nine are related to flood and storm topics, and three form a specialized group on mathematical models of catchment behaviour.

During the course of the symposium the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held, and it is planned to arrange a panel discussion on 'Recreational and Scenic Aspects of Water Resource Developments'.

1969 SYMPOSIUM

'Aspects of the Water Balance' has been provisionally chosen by the Committee as the topic of the 1969 symposium of the Hydrological Society. It is proposed to commence with sessions on instrumentation and observation methods, and then continue with other aspects of the water balance.

OBITUARY

Died: Ellis Carl Schnackenberg, on 19 July 1968.

Ellis Schnackenberg was, without doubt, the initiator of national hydrological work in New Zealand. After the Second World War he was charged, among other duties, with the carrying out of "hydrological research and the publication of the results thereof", as stated in the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act.

Following an attempt to arrange for such work to be done as part of the normal function of district Ministry of Works officers, he established so-called "hydraulic survey parties" in the period 1950-1954 as specialist groups to begin the long road towards a hydrological research establishment.

He was confronted with a country with complex hydrological conditions and a general apathy towards the observation of data which appeared to have no immediate application to the solving of existing problems.

He wrote several papers and arranged for the design of standard gauging equipment, and he imbued the early hydrologists with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately his transfer to other duties in 1955 cut short a task which had only just begun.

We have travelled far since then in hydrology in New Zealand, but let us not forget the early beginnings which were inspired by Ellis Schnackenberg. He suffered from being a pioneer in his line, and in a country of New Zealand's size and economic base this is a difficult thing to be. The true worth of his work was little valued, but those whose fortune it is to be the inheritors of his enthusiasm, sound planning and wide capacity have nothing but admiration.