

News and Notes

PROPOSED NEW GUINEA CONGRESS

The Council has considered the proposal made at the Brisbane Congress in 1958 that the 1960 Congress and Camp-out be held in New Guinea and has authorized the publication of a reference in *The Emu* in order to establish whether or not sufficient members would be interested. No definite plans will be made until such indication of interest is forthcoming. If members likely to attend will write to the Hon. General Secretary after considering the following details the Council will be able to gauge the potential of the venture.

The Congress and Camp would be of three weeks' duration in October, the most suitable time and an active nesting period. Proposed transport would be by Qantas Constellation 'Bird of Paradise' flight—departure from Sydney at 9.30 p.m., arriving at Brisbane 11.45 p.m., depart Brisbane 12.45 a.m., arriving Port Moresby 6.0 a.m. Adjustable armchairs for sleeping provided and breakfast on flight. From Port Moresby Qantas D.C.4 flight to Lae leaving 7 a.m., flying over the Owen Stanley Range and arriving at Lae (north coast of New Guinea) at 8.20 a.m. On the return trip to Australia plane leaves Lae at 9.10 a.m. to connect with the southbound 'Bird of Paradise' flight, departing from Port Moresby at 11.30 a.m. arriving Brisbane 4.45 p.m. and Sydney 7.45 p.m. Present air fare from Sydney to Port Moresby and Lae and return to Sydney is first class £112/19/- and tourist £102/14/-. Usual hotel expenses at Port Moresby, Lae, Bulolo, Wau. Road transport by bus or cars in New Guinea.

Naturally the itinerary cannot be more than a tentative one at this stage but probably the programme would be divided into three portions—Congress and associated outings at Port Moresby, a period spent in and around the Lae district, and some time spent in the Bulolo district—each of approximately one week's duration. Anticipated excursions during the Port Moresby section would be to the Rouna Falls, rubber plantations, Koki Harbour, Birribi, and to the coral reefs by launch; to the mouth of the Markham River, Huon Gulf, to natives villages on the Nadzab Road during the Lae period; and to the gold-dredging areas, Wau and other places of interest during the final part of the excursion.

An approach would be made to various authorities to obtain official recognition of the party with consequent facilities for transport and other assistance. Mr. Ivor Manton, who has associations with the territory, and who promulgated the idea of holding the Congress in New Guinea, has already put certain inquiries in hand.

Although the project is some time ahead, there would be considerable arrangements to be made and, if the suggestion is to be adopted, as much time as possible to effect these is desired. Consequently would members interested give an intimation of intention or desire to attend, as soon as possible.

CROSBIE MORRISON APPEAL

Members are reminded of this appeal, particulars of which were published in *The Emu*, vol. 59, p. 152. The avowed objective being the establishment of a cultural hall with housing facilities for natural history societies, it behoves all naturalists to assist, and, in view of the subject of the following item of News and Notes, members of the R.A.O.U. assisting to achieve the aim will be materially aiding the Union.

R.A.O.U. HEADQUARTERS

Consequent upon the lifting of rent control with regard to business premises in Victoria, the rent of the Union's room will be increased to more than three times the present amount as from August 1. The Union's income is barely sufficient to meet the cost of four issues per annum of *The Emu* (72 pages each), and lower than the actual cost of the larger yearly volumes (some of five parts) published during several recent years and towards which cost the M. A. Ingram Trust has been a generous donor.

It is anticipated that the Union will not be able to meet the increased rent and will have to look for other quarters after disposing of some assets and storing others. Melbourne and metropolitan members in particular (though all members are addressed) who have ideas or offers to submit in order to alleviate the foregoing serious position are asked to communicate at once with the Hon. General Secretary.

EDITORIAL ADDRESS

A few correspondents writing to the Hon. Editor address their communications to 'The Hon. Editor, The Emu, 224 Queen Street, Melbourne'. Maybe it is a compliment to the Editor or to the Union that the letters appear to be delivered, but as the address is that of a multiple-storeyed building, on one floor of which the Editor conducts his personal business (and is not the address of the Union), his name should be included in addresses in order to obviate confusion and possible loss.

MATTER HELD OVER

Principally because of its late receipt, the account of the Camp-out at Noosa Heads in 1958 has been held over and will appear in part 4.