

## RAOU FELLOWS: CITATIONS

At the Annual General Meeting on 10 May 1974, the Council's recommendation that Dr C. A. Fleming and Dr H. J. Frith be elected Fellows was unanimously accepted.



**CHARLES ALEXANDER FLEMING, FRS, OBE**

Dr C. A. Fleming was born at Auckland, New Zealand, on 9 September 1916 and was educated at King's College, Auckland. He graduated BA from Auckland University College and in 1952 was admitted to the degree of DSc. He adopted geology as his profession and in 1940 joined the Geological Survey of New Zealand as assistant geologist, becoming assistant palaeontologist in 1942. He is now chief palaeontologist.

However, from his early years ornithology was an overwhelming personal interest; his research in this field, and the consequential papers, gave him an international reputation. He has studied seabirds on many islands, even during a tour of duty with a coast-watching party on sub-antarctic islands in World War II. These included the Auckland Islands and Campbell, where he took the opportunity to do field-work in both geology and ornithology.

He has published notable papers on taxonomy, both in passerines and petrels, an outstanding one being on the prions, using the technique of analysing differential growth of the bill by graphical means. The influence of past climates on the distribution of birds has always interested him and he has discussed the varying hydrology of the Tasman Sea in explaining anomalous distribution of seabirds in Australia and New Zealand. He has also discussed the larger problem of trans-Tasman relations among birds and the origin of the New Zealand avifauna.

He has been President of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (1948-49), and was President of ANZAAS at its Adelaide meeting in 1969.



#### HAROLD JAMES FRITH

Harry Frith, as he is usually known, was born at Kyogle, NSW, on 16 April 1921. He was educated at the Lismore High School and Sydney University, where he graduated Bachelor of Agricultural Science. After service with the AIF in the Middle East he joined CSIRO Division of Plant Industry in 1945 and was posted to the Irrigation Research Station at Griffith.

Harry Frith was always interested in wildlife, despite his first choice of a career in agricultural science. His father introduced him to the pleasures of the bush and the sport of wildfowling. The opportunity of transferring to the Wildlife Section of CSIRO occurred during the investigations into myxomatosis in the early 1950s when he volunteered for the team of field observers in connexion with this programme. In 1951 he transferred to Wildlife. However, before this he had begun research in ornithology as a spare-time activity. The most outstanding of this was a study of the nesting habits of the Malleefowl, which involved him in an arduous programme, which would have daunted an average person. His official research in Wildlife centred on the ecology and breeding habits of ducks, as the result of which a stream of papers issued from him and his collaborators, culminating in a book on the subject. In 1962 he became Chief of the Division of Wildlife Research, as the unit came to be called.

He has been officer-in-charge of the Australian Bird-Banding Scheme (1960-62) and has served on various public and governmental bodies in connexion with wildlife research and conservation.

He received his doctorate of science in the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Sydney. His election is particularly appropriate in the year that he is Secretary-General of the XVI International Ornithological Congress in Canberra.