

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS To 41st Annual Conference

M.J. HARTLEY

Welcome to the start of the second forty years of our Society. The recent turmoil imposed on research organisations by cuts in government funding and the user-pays approach to research may have a major impact on our Society.

The first objective of the New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society is to pool and exchange information concerning weeds, pests, diseases and their control. This objective we have achieved with great success over recent years as shown by the success of our Conference and the high esteem in which our Proceedings are held.

Our success in this area has, I believe, been due largely to two factors.

Firstly the incredibly short time it takes us to print our Proceedings. Where else can you find scientific papers published within two months of submission? This is not easy to achieve and is a credit to a system developed over the years, a dedicated and hard working secretary and an efficient, well organised printing company. This efficiency has the advantage that:

- * Current findings are immediately available.
- * They can be built on or used by others the following year.
- * They are presented while still fresh in the presenter's mind.

Secondly our success is due to our conference presentation. As all papers are pre-printed in the Proceedings and in the hands of the audience before the conference the actual presentation can be short and limited to the interesting parts of the work with no time wasted on enumerating boring details. Such presentations are not too traumatic for the presenter, especially the young and inexperienced. The system enables us to present a lot of papers, without need for concurrent sessions, and hence gives all members a chance to follow developments in fields other than their own.

This was all very well in the past when exchange of scientific information was commendable, but what of the future?

* Now that we are governed by what have been described the President of NZIAS as a 'bunch of intellectual morons' who have little concept of science or the long term advantages of research from which there may be no immediate financial return.

* Now that we have a leader who, when talking about the Piquot Report, promised his audience that he was going to protect the education system from scientists who might wish to influence the direction of our children's education.

* Now that user-pays has hit agricultural research with the result that many scientists are diverting their efforts away from public benefit research to confidential commercial research.

WHAT OF OUR FUTURE?

The *our* in this case could be:

- * The New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society.
- * All of us in the Primary Production Industry.
- * All of us in New Zealand.

I hardly need to tell you that the only way science can advance is by building step by step on the basis of knowledge already learned. There have been, and always will be, some brilliant leaps forward but for most of us it is a step by step process.

Thus as soon as we stop exchanging information, and exchanging it rapidly, progress will be severely impeded.

Are we going to allow ourselves to be squeezed into our private corners or are we going to help each other along so that our little Kiwi can hold it's head up and look the world right in the eye?

I am delighted to see, in spite of fears to the contrary, that contributions to our conference this year have not declined. I believe the greatest contribution our Society can make:

- * To the future of agricultural research.
- * To the future of the whole primary production industry.
- * To the future of New Zealand.

is to **stick to our objectives.**

To pool and exchange information concerning weeds, pests, diseases and their control and I encourage you, the members of the Society to continue contributing for the sake of the future prosperity of New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND WEED AND PEST CONTROL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

This year, 1989, is the first year the research Scholarship was available. The Scholarship is worth up to \$1,000, and replaces the Society Award.

The Scholarship is available to postgraduate students working in the field of plant protection and/or biology of weeds, insects, plant pathogens or other pest organisms.

The recipient of the 1989 Scholarship is Katrina McCallum. She was selected from 10 outstanding applicants. Katrina is an M.Sc student in the Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences at the University of Canterbury. Her research project is on the seed biology of nodding thistle and its interaction with biological control. As such, it covers the disciplines of both weed science and entomology and is a highly suitable topic for the Society's award. Katrina was awarded the full \$1,000.



ANNUAL REPORT 1988-89 A.J. Popay

The 41st conference was held in Auckland in 1988. Fifty-seven full papers and 14 research notes provided a full programme for delegates. A keynote address (published in this Proceedings) on the future directions for weed research was given by Dr J.H. Combellack of the Keith Turnbull Institute, Australia. As well, a symposium entitled 'Agrochemicals — Curse or Cure' was held at which three speakers presented information and viewpoints on different aspects of pesticide use (one of these is also published in this Proceedings). The symposium was open to members of the public and provided a useful forum for an exchange of views.

Sales of 'A Guide to New Zealand Common Weeds in Colour' continue steadily. Stocks of this book are dwindling but plans are now underway for a new edition in 1992. Planning has also begun for a similar publication on insects.