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ANNUAL REPORT 1990-91

A.J. Popay

The 43rd Annual Conference was held in Dunedin, August 14-16, 1990. It was a highly successful one with a full programme comprising 86 papers, a symposium on Policy Issues Relevant to Biological Control and a keynote address by Dr Basil Walker, Chief Executive of MORST.

Early in 1991 a few senior Society members met to prepare a submission on the proposed Crown Research Institutes. That submission strongly supported retaining plant protection personnel within a single unit. The Task Group's Interim Report, however, favoured the division of staff between several CRIs. Subsequently, members of the Executive prepared a further submission on the Science Task Group's Interim Report, which again argued in favour of retaining plant protection research together, and a meeting was held with members of the task group. At this stage the final outcome is unknown, but it appears that plant protection research will be split between several CRI's. Under such organisation the Society will have an important role in bringing together plant protection personnel.

NEW ZEALAND WEED AND PEST CONTROL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

This year's Research Scholarship was awarded to Brett Alexander of the Botany Department, Auckland University. Brett is doing an M.Sc on "Biological Control of Sclerotial Plant Pathogens in New Zealand". Brett will be investigating the survival of these plant pathogens in the soil and the possibility of biological control of them, particularly with mycoparasites.

