

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
45TH CONFERENCE, 1992**

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1992 has been an active and interesting year for the Society and its members.

In response to the desire of the majority of our members, the name change to the New Zealand Plant Protection Society took place with the minimum disruption and expenditure. The change of name has been seen as a positive move in responding to the real function of the Society's members, one of management rather than control.

For many of our members 1992 has been the culmination of many years of restructuring of Government funded science. Or is just another step on the way? Only time will tell.

With the dispersal of Plant Protection scientists into six separate Research Institutes, communication between plant protection researchers may be compromised. As Institutes take a more commercial attitude to their work it is inevitable that barriers will develop, inhibiting the free flow of information to the detriment of plant protection research.

The prime objective of the Society is: To pool and exchange information on the biology of weeds, invertebrate pests, pathogens and beneficial organisms and methods for modifying their effects. The key statement is "pool and exchange information".

In the future the Society must play a more active role in facilitating the exchange of information - even more so than in the past. We all know the value of holding an annual conference, not only to present the results of our research but also to interact with our peers. This opportunity arises once a year and I would suggest that this is insufficient to meet the future needs of our members.

To enhance the frequency and quality of our communication the Society is going to facilitate the opportunity to get together more frequently on both a national and local level.

Nationally it is proposed that the Society becomes the catalyst to conduct workshops/seminars that are relevant to the work of our members. These workshops may be initiated by the Society or held on behalf of another organisation, but will focus on plant protection research and will be applicable to the work of our members.

At a regional level, local branches will play an important role in ensuring ongoing communication between members. To date local branches have had mixed success. A notable success story is the Waikato branch which regularly holds well attended meetings and field days.

It is the intention of the Executive to encourage the formation of local branches that will meet the needs of our members at a regional level.

The Society is here for you, the members. The value of the Society relates directly to the efforts that you put into it. With the dispersal of Plant Protection scientists through a number of Institutes the value of the Society becomes greater to its members. The Society will be a vehicle for promoting the value of plant protection research and maintaining the credibility of our members in the eyes of science decision makers.

The long term strength of the Society will be from the active support of its members both at a local and national level. I encourage you to take an active role in your Society - it is for your benefit.