

**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
46TH CONFERENCE, 1993
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This last year has been a very successful year for the Society. The highlights being:

- Number of members stabilised.
- Record attendance at the conference.
- Conducted our first symposium for some years to meet the needs of our members.
- Our financial situation continues to improve.
- Improved the profile of the Society and plant protection throughout the scientific community.

With the dispersal of plant protection throughout a number of CRI's there was a danger that communication and co-operation would be comprised. Judging by the response to the symposium and conference, members see the value that the Society is fulfilling in the role of facilitator.

The challenge for the Society is how to continue to fill that role and to grow.

There is no doubting the value of the symposium. It was not a one-off and provided there is suitable subject matter, more will be held. It is not intended to restrict timing to annual conferences although from a number attending point of view, this timing has an attraction. If the need arises the Society will facilitate symposia on an as-needed basis, at a suitable location. They are time consuming to organise and the executive will need assistance with organisation.

Last year in my address I spoke of the need for increased branch level activity. Waikato and Hawkes Bay lead the way as they did last year, However, there is still not a lot of activity at branch level and I still have a goal of reactivating branches. Your help would be appreciated.

The issue of pesticide resistance is an international issue that affects New Zealand's primary production and one that the Society has taken an active part in the past. However, the insecticide and fungicide resistance groups have slipped into oblivion. The danger is that an issue arises and there is no effective group to handle and recommend remedies. A group has been set up on herbicide resistance. Their goal is to define the problem in New Zealand and internationally so that strategies to minimise the problem here can be developed and communicated to relevant parties. The insect and fungi resistance group should be re-activated under the auspices of the Society. A suggestion is that pesticide resistance be a topic for a future symposium.

We have heard again and again the requirement to move away from pesticides in the production of foods. As plant protection practitioners we must be careful that any such move is the result of sound science, not just public policy. This will be achieved not only with the scientific studies carried out by our members but also from a determination to keep the argument honest by questioning some conclusions that are presented under the guise of science. The danger is that important tools for plant protection will be lost for no valid scientific reason with downstream effects.

Finally, any Society is only as effective as the commitment of its members and, more particularly, that of its Executive. We rely on the commitment of the Executive and the goodwill of their employers to ensure the continued activity of the Society. It is easy to come along to the conference once a year and take for granted all the organisation that goes on throughout the year to ensure this event goes ahead. I would like to thank the members of the Executive for their commitment and effort over the last 12 months. In particular, I should acknowledge the efforts of Jorge Zabkiewicz as Secretary, Karen Herron as Treasurer, Max Suckling for the leadership in organising the symposium, and George Kerse for organisation of the conference venue, and Alison Popay for her continued high quality editorial work.

The Society is a good, healthy organisation, and will continue to serve the needs of its members. Your continued support is essential to help the Society grow.