

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 1993-1994

J.A. Zabkiewicz

The 46th annual conference was held in Christchurch with 63 papers and 18 research notes contributed. The official opening was by the Hon. Mr M. Williamson, replacing the Hon. S. Upton at the last minute due to a family bereavement.

The conference was preceded by a one day symposium on "Plant protection: cost, benefit and trade implications" and the proceedings (editors Suckling and Popay) was published under that title early in February 1994. Attendance was excellent at both functions, registrations being 127 at the Symposium and 154 at Conference. The dinner was also well patronised and enjoyed by 84 delegates and partners.

There was also a further reprinting of "Weeds in colour" during the past year and sales are progressing comfortably. There has been a stricter policy of maintaining at least a \$5 differential in favour of member's purchases of publications. The decreasing number of regional libraries in New Zealand has seen the number of standing orders for the proceedings drop significantly.

The past year has been one of further new initiatives by the Committee, the main one being a decision to highlight the 50th Anniversary of the Society in 1997. Another is to make the Scholarship fund self-financing and the target of \$20,000 by 1997 has been set. Various revenue paths were considered, and the sale at reduced rates of back-issues of the Proceedings has generated some revenue already. Fifteen percent of profits from any conference or meeting organised by the Society will also be paid each year into the Scholarship account. Individual and corporate members are being asked to donate an appropriate amount with their membership fee each year towards that end as well.

Under evaluation is a proposal to publish (with considerable external support) a book on New Zealand weeds. This will be a companion volume to "Weeds in colour". It will be larger and with descriptive text for each species. The 1997 conference will probably have an international character - it will certainly reflect the progress over the last 50 years of plant protection research in New Zealand.

Membership rose approximately 10% over the year to a total of 335 plus 13 overseas members from the previous years total of 295 and 13 overseas members. This is most pleasing and is probably due to the greater profile and range of activities that the Society has developed. Of the present total we still have the problem of approximately 17% of membership being at least one year overdue on payments and a hard core 6% not having paid for two years. Members are reminded that their name will be deleted after two years non-payment of dues and it is possible that some form of re-joining fee may need to be introduced as well in the future. We stand to carry a loss on the publication of the Proceedings if copies are not taken up by members. There is also the question now of affiliation to the Royal Society, which incurs a further capitation expense.

Finally I would like to thank the membership for their increased cooperation, assistance and interaction over the past year. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction to see the Society continue to thrive scientifically and financially.

NEW ZEALAND PLANT PROTECTION SOCIETY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

There were five applicants this year and the recipient chosen was **Carol Stewart**, who is in her final year of a PhD study at Lincoln University on the topic of "The ecology of *Agasicles hygrophila* and the relationship with its host *Alternanthera philoxeroides* in the Auckland-Northland region".

