

objective of pooling and exchanging information related to Plant Protection. Finally, as we are all aware, no society can thrive as well as ours does without a committed Executive. All Committee members have freely given their time and energy in professionally executing tasks for the Society. On my behalf, and on behalf of the members, I thank them all for their enthusiastic and valuable contributions.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 1994/95

J.A. ZABKIEWICZ

The Society continues to flourish ! There has been a most heartening level of support during the past year(s) which can be illustrated best by the "active" membership levels continuing to grow steadily. In 1991/92 the number of fully paid-up members was only 177 out of a mailing list close to 300. In the past year this number rose to 271 out of a list of over 350. However, as mentioned last year, your continued support is essential. We in turn have kept the subscription the same and undertaken to cover the cost of Royal Society affiliation fees.

The past year has seen the recognition of the Society as a powerbroker in the New Zealand scientific community, by the invitation from the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology to develop and provide a forum for discussion of "Potential Problem Weeds" in June 1994. A subsequent publication from this forum has virtually sold out. Later in the year, members of the Executive Committee also coordinated a submission to SpiR on key science areas in New Zealand, with special attention on the value and need for coordinated plant protection research. The result of this has been the development of substantially different guidelines for future FRST bidding rounds.

The annual conference in Paihia turned from a nail-biting organisational exercise to a resounding success, through the highest ever (in recent years) numbers of papers and participants. The profits from the conference were in turn used to boost very substantially the Scholarship account which looks to be well on track to achieve the 50th Anniversary capital sum. Sales of past issues of the Proceedings and donations also helped this project. The contributions from individuals were especially welcome and it's good to see that this trend is continuing this year as well.

A combination of efficiency gains, new activities, and continued sales of "Weeds in Colour" has helped to maintain the Society's profitability. Corporate support and sponsorship has been particularly welcome and further initiatives are planned for this year to increase the "tech transfer" component by having a greater number of overseas visitors participate at our functions. Publication options for the new weeds book are being developed further and final decisions should be made in late 1995.

Plans and ideas for 1997, the 50th anniversary of the Society, are being assessed to make that year memorable for the Society and for New Zealand plant protection science. Further contributions are still welcome !

Thank you one and all for your support.

NEW ZEALAND PLANT PROTECTION SOCIETY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

There were three applicants this year and the recipient chosen was **Lynelle Eustace** who is in her second year of a MSc at Massey University on the topic of "Autecology and control of *Ehrharta villosa*".

