

As at 30 April 1999, the Society membership list (Life) stood at 369; (Ordinary) stood at 331 of which 225 were financial; (Overseas) stood at 20 of which 2 were financial; (Associate) stood at 18 of which 11 were financial.

Royal Society

There is an undercurrent of discontent with the RSNZ Primary Producers Advisory Committee (RSNZ PPAC) in some sectors of the primary industries scientific society. The PPAC is meant to be the RSNZ front from which informed comment and guidance (and lobbying of government) is sought. Unfortunately this committee has convened only once in the last 18 months. Other Societies are trying to form an umbrella group of societies to replace the RSNZ PPAC. This group of societies also includes the current Chair of the RSNZ PPAC.

Your Executive has taken the stance that the RSNZ PPAC should be made to work rather than start a new organisation. The President has written to the Royal Society to try to achieve this because the Royal Society of New Zealand, to which the NZPPS is affiliated, is the scientific organisation recognised by Government.

NEW ZEALAND PLANT PROTECTION SOCIETY RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP



The recipient of this year's scholarship is Joanna McQueen, of Waikato University, who is working on a MSc on *Acacia longifolia* invasion of the Kaimaumu Conservation Area. *A. longifolia* is a native to Australia and was planted in New Zealand early this century to stabilise sand dunes, from which it has since spread. The Kaimaumu gumland has a range of specialised native plants due to its unique soil properties such as poor drainage and very low pH. *A. longifolia* is spreading into this unique area and could potentially change the character of the gumland and predispose the community to other invaders.