ANNUAL REPORT 1980-81

The 33rd Conference of the N.Z. Weed and Pest Control Society was held at Willow Park Motor Hotel, Tauranga from 12 to 14 August 1980. The conference was opened by the Chairman of the Tauranga Country Council Mr Eion Barrett, who welcomed members to Tauranga. Mr Barrett expressed concern over some agricultural developments overseas and the effect of regulations, legislations and pressure groups and warned that these may be coming here. He also highlighted some of the problems facing the use of agricultural pesticides and wished members well in their scientific deliberations of these problems.

The conference was very well subscribed with 59 papers given. Insects took the lead again with 27 papers, while there were 23 papers on weeds, 4 on diseases, 2 on miscellaneous subjects and an evening session on pesticide regulations. A paper was given on the identification of wild oats which has been included in the 3rd edition of Identification of Weeds and Clover. Most sessions were attended by over 100 delegates with the highest attendance of 151 being attracted on the session of kiwifruit.

On hundred and fifteen members attended the full conference, 19 people attended for two days and 34 for one day. This gave a total involvement of 171 people including three people slipping in without paying conference fees! The Annual General Meeting was attended by 77 members.

Membership of the society stands at 356 with 23 organisations giving support as sustaining members. The financial position is reasonably sound inspite of the fact that income from subscriptions fell short of the cost of printing the proceedings. This year we have also produced an up date of the index, to be issued free to all members, which has put further demands on our finances.

The 3rd edition of Identification of Weeds and Clover is being produced and should return some revenue soon. Progress is continuing on preparation of material for a booklet of colour pictures for identification of weeds. This will be an expensive project but appears feasible. Following a request from the 1980 A.G.M. a list of National Research Projects has been prepared and circulated to members and interested organisations.

The Hawkes Bay Branch has again been our most active local branch but there has also been some activity in Manawatu and Christchurch.