FOREWORD

New Zealand Primary Producers are under increasing pressure as a result of demands from buyers half a world away that add significant compliance costs, and add restrictions to production practices. While there has been a lot of publicity around ‘food-miles’ etc, acceptability of pesticide residues in food continues to be a critical issue that needs to be addressed by anyone wanting to supply food to the world market. For fresh products, the challenge is heightened by the need to also meet phytosanitary requirements. If New Zealand wishes to continue to be a successful food exporting country, Plant Protection scientists will be essential.

The New Zealand Plant Protection Society continues to play a key role through various initiatives to support and enable advances in Plant Protection science and application. For example, in August 2007, the New Zealand Plant Protection Society hosted a symposium on “Future Challenges in Crop Protection: Repositioning New Zealand’s Primary Industries for the Future”. I’d like to take the opportunity to thank Mike Butcher, Jim Walker and Sue Zydenbos for editing the proceedings of this event. Activities such as this symposium continue to bring sharp focus on issues of the day. The Society has also initiated the New Zealand Plant Protection Medal, with the inaugural presentation going to Dr Howard Wearing. The Society continues to support the next generation of Plant Protection scientists via reduced conference fees and travel grants for conference attendance for students, allocation of the New Zealand Plant Protection Research Scholarship and administration of the Dan Watkins Scholarship in weed science. Recognition and special treatment of those who are ‘emerging’ presenters at a scientific conference is another new initiative over the last 2 years. Finally, our membership of the Council of Australasian Weed Science means we are able to award the “weed wise nursery” award each year.

This journal continues to provide a unique forum for publishing New Zealand-centric Plant Protection research. The society is now in its 61st year, and the fantastic participation of the New Zealand Plant Protection community is a powerful testimony to the continued relevance.

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