NEW ZEALAND PLANT PROTECTION SOCIETY INC.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE 2001-2002 YEAR

Mrs L.J. McKay

The Society's 54th annual conference was held in Palmerston North with 48 papers and 21 poster presentations. Despite the lower than usual number of papers the conference was well attended. It was at the conference dinner that the Society discovered that it had finally recruited enough women members to permit a successful, albeit experimental, dance, helped by an unexpectedly good band; thank you to the local organisers.

Sales of *Weeds in Colour* have remain steady with over 430 copies sold in the last year. A new publication *Plant Protection Challenges in Organic Production* (Editors Max Suckling and Mike Butcher) has been produced. This contribution is being marketed and sold directly through the Society.

In spite of ongoing funding turbulence for many government institutions, there has been little change in the total membership numbers which remained steady at around 380. During 2001-02 the membership fee remained unchanged but, due to external pressure, fees may have to be reviewed in future to cover costs up till now met on a *de facto* basis by the Society's large member organisations.

The membership database is currently being updated to include members' research areas and employment sector. This information is currently being obtained from members along with signed agreement from individuals to publish their names and contact details in *New Zealand Plant Protection*.

During the past 12 months international interest (in particular from India) in the Society has grown and a number of Scholarship applications were received from these new members. This may in part be because of the increasing interest in the NZPPS website which is currently being upgraded to contain current information on pesticide resistance.

A Research Scholarship was awarded this year to Stuart Card from Lincoln University and Conference travel grants were also awarded to five members.

The NZPPS also wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support of its corporate sponsors and the Society remains determined to make such support worthwhile.

Finally, it is with regret that I note the passing of Dr Alan Carpenter, who for many years, was a regular and enthusiastic contributor to the Society's conferences.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee and members for their continuing support and encouragement.