FOREWORD

Welcome to Volume 65 of the *New Zealand Plant Protection Journal*. In developing this foreword I reviewed the previous edition and found that predictions made 12 months ago have been realised, with further down-sizing of science-based crown ministries, departments and research institutes, some with up to 10% reduction in staffing levels. It is too early to tell what impact this will have on New Zealand's primary industries, biosecurity risk and in particular the conservation estate and natural heritage of New Zealand, but the erosion of technical decision makers and science-based organisation funding is of concern. The research and development that our members do remains extremely relevant in New Zealand's economic recovery, both in directly supporting production and trade for primary industries and also in protecting NZ's environment and the 100% pure image that supports tourism.

Publication of our research continues on a similar trajectory with higher quality and more extensive papers being submitted to the journal, but in fewer numbers than in the past. This year we introduced online submission of abstracts and papers, which was the result of significant effort by the Society's Web Editor, John Kean, and Editor, Sue Zydenbos, and was extremely well received by submitters. The *New Zealand Plant Protection Journal* is the society's flag-ship to disseminating quality plant protection science to members and end-users, and we are still undertaking changes to improve the impact of the journal and the value it provides our members and readers.

The society recently approved publication of a new book on grasses, sedges and rushes, which as with our other weeds book, translates the technical descriptions in volumes of the Flora of New Zealand into an easy-to-use and well-illustrated guide for farmers, agriculturalists, conservation workers and others.

Once again the society has been active in promoting development and excellence in plant protection science and we would like to congratulate Dr Jim Walker who was the recipient of the New Zealand Plant Protection Medal for outstanding contribution to plant protection in New Zealand. I would also like to congratulate Matthew Denton-Giles, who is a 2nd year PhD student at Massey University and was the recipient of the 2011/12 New Zealand Plant Protection Society Research Scholarship.

On a much sadder note we have lost Arthur Healy who was recognised for his significant contribution to the NZ Plant Protection Society (under the former title of the Weed and Pest Control Society) in 1972 by being elected a life member and more recently when he was recognised for his lifelong commitment for excellence in plant protection science when awarded the New Zealand Plant Protection Medal in 2008.

The society has also extended its commitment to disseminating plant protection science by holding a one day 'snapshot in time' symposium on the wide array of research into kiwifruit Psd disease and management. We are also holding a second mini-symposium on regulatory issues in plant protection as part of our main conference after last year's success with this new format. In addition to this, we are offering two professional development sessions as a new feature of the conference this year. The sessions will cover an introduction to veterinary epidemiology theory for plant protection and data management.

The Society's Executive Committee underwent a major change last year when the longstanding Treasurer Dr Anis Rahman stood down. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Anis for his many years of exceptional service to the society and also

acknowledge the hard work that Mary Hiron put into maintaining the society's accounts. The executive committee has again been very busy this year and I would like to thank the individual members of the committee for all of their efforts, in particular the new Treasurer Toni Withers and new Secretary Heather Pearson. I would also like to thank society members for their on-going support of the aims of the society – to disseminate plant protection information, affiliate with similar societies and administer scholarships for the furtherance of plant protection science.

Karyn Froud
President, New Zealand Plant Protection Society