FOREWORD

New Zealand's primary production industries and our native estate are the backbone of New Zealand's economy. Horticulture (valued at \$7 billion p.a.), forestry (valued at >\$5 billion p.a.), pastoral agriculture (>\$24 billion in 2014) and tourism (tourists spend >\$23 billion p.a.) rely on pest, disease and weed management programmes developed by primary production industries in partnership with plant protection researchers. These programmes are dynamic and continually improving productivity in a sustainable way to meet new human health and environmental concerns such as low or nil detectable residues, while at the same time meeting strict phytosanitary requirements.

Our borders are constantly challenged by biosecurity threats that have the potential for serious impact on primary production and our native estate. A Queensland fruit fly response operation in Auckland is currently underway after a population was detected in February. These types of threats have the potential to disrupt integrated pest management strategies and threaten market access. NZ's Plant Protection community is contributing directly to the response through the National Biosecurity Capability Network, Technical Advisory roles, Government Industry Agreement parties, Better Border Biosecurity research and by providing a collective body of specialist knowledge.

The research presented in the *New Zealand Plant Protection* journal summarises some of the underpinning research that informs and enables the development of integrated pest, disease and weed management and biosecurity strategies. Our editor, Sue Zydenbos, has done a fabulous job yet again to pull together another volume of the journal that focuses on understanding and developing solutions that best suit growers today and in to the future. The production of this journal and the annual NZ Plant Protection Conference held each year in the second week of August are the main activities of the society, which aims to pool and exchange information on the biology of pests, pathogens, weeds and beneficial organisms and methods for modifying their effects.

New Zealand Plant Protection Society (NZPPS) also plays a significant role in supporting the NZ Committee on Pesticide Resistance, which develops the resistance management strategies that appear on our website. The development of resistance to pesticides, fungicides and herbicides is an ongoing issue for our productive sectors and this year our society along with AGCARM and stakeholders held a workshop to review the status of current resistance management strategies, identify the need for updates and examine new resistance threats to enable future improvement of this valuable resource.

Our pre-conference symposium in 2014 on 'The Plant Protection Data Toolbox' outlined new ways of designing and analysing plant protection data sets and the papers from this symposium will soon be available as a NZPPS publication. 'Wilding Conifers' is the subject of our 2015 pre-conference symposium and will summarise lessons learnt since our last symposium on this subject 12 years ago, new threats and management methods for the future.

Professional development sessions have been a valuable addition to our annual conference for our members, covering topics from scientific writing, study design and data analysis to dealing with the media. Furtherance of Plant Protection science is a key objective of the society and along with the journal, conference, symposium, workshops and professional development sessions, the society administers a range of scholarships and awards. This year we have awarded the NZ Plant Protection Scholarship to Amna Shafi from Lincoln University whose research is focused on a disease of grapevines, the

NZPPS Travel Award to Anis Rahman at AgResearch to attend a conference and exchange information with others in his field of research, and NZPPS Student Travel awards to Karyn Froud and Kiri Cutting to attend the 2015 NZPPS Conference.

A new initiative that is currently getting off the ground is the NZPPS Mentoring Programme to support students in their goals and academic path at university and beyond. Kirstin Wurms, Eirian Jones and more recently, Jason Smith, have been busy setting up the mentoring programme and pairing students wishing to develop their career in Plant Protection science with senior NZPPS members.

It has been a busy year and I'd like to thank the productive NZPPS executive committee and newsletter editor for their dedication, enthusiasm and passion that drives them to assist with meeting the society's objectives. All the best for another fruitful year.

Lisa Jamieson
President, New Zealand Plant Protection Society