FOREWORD

The last 12 months have been characterised by uncertainty caused by world events, such as the global economic recession, Australian floods, Canterbury earthquakes and the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. These events have shaped the environment we are delivering science and research in. Indications from the 2011 budget show that more savings are expected from the public sector alongside more restructures and mergers, such as those that have already occurred between Government research funding agencies, Ministries and Departments. At the same time we are getting messages that the New Zealand economic recovery is reliant on strong and productive primary industries.

The work we do in plant protection has always been relevant and has strongly supported sustainable economic growth in the primary sectors. However, it has been difficult to compete against other disciplines in the Government funding arena as this work is not often about radical change but rather ongoing improvement and maintaining and enhancing market access. The Psa bacterial canker disease in kiwifruit (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*) discovered in November 2010 in New Zealand has highlighted, again, the need to maintain capability in plant protection science.

The quality of papers presented to the journal this year was high, although volume was again lower than previous years. The journal is in its second year of the new format and looking impressive. As a society we see the journal as the flag-ship to disseminating quality plant protection science to members and end users and are still undertaking work to improve the impact of the journal and the value it provides our members and readers. We have also done well with book sales for the year and have initiated a new book project led by Lisa Jamieson on productive plant pests and their natural enemies.

The NZPP Society also delivered the Council of Australasian Weeds Societies (CAWS) 2010 conference in Christchurch, which was a huge success despite the first Canterbury Earthquake only 22 days earlier. Full credit must go to Trevor James for leading this on behalf of the society and to all those keen weed scientists that still came despite the aftershocks.

Once again the society has been active in promoting development and excellence in plant protection science and we would like to congratulate George Mason who was the recipient of the New Zealand Plant Protection Medal for outstanding contribution to plant protection in New Zealand. Congratulations to Kerikeri Plant Production for receiving the 'most weed-wise nursery' award this year and under the development umbrella I would like to congratulate Blessy Pathrose and Damian Bienkowski for winning the NZPP scholarship and Ross Meffin for winning the Dan Watkins scholarship. We have also assisted in travel grants for students to attend the NZPPS conference and this year's recipients are Chin Lui Foo, Prasad Doddala and Rashmi Kant. On a sadder note we have lost three key contributors of the society and New Zealand science this year, Bruce Roy, Bill Kain and Trevor Trought.

This year we have been lucky to have a dedicated team that has planned a pre-conference symposium on utilising plant defence for pest control, which has attracted a wide range of papers and speakers. The main conference has also departed slightly from the norm and we have an extended last day with a mini-symposium on the tomato potato psyllid, with both published papers and extended abstracts that will be published elsewhere. This is part of an effort to make sure that our research is meeting the target audience needs.

The society 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 and the society members for their ongoing 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
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