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ANNUAL REPORT 1981-1982
M.J. Hartley

The 34th Conference of the N.Z. Weed and Pest Control Society was held at the Autolodge, Blenheim from 11 to 13th August 1981. The conference was opened by the MP for Marlborough Mr Doug Kidd who asked whether we researchers were giving value for our cost. “Why after three generations of research are we at the point where the cost of controlling gorse is getting beyond the reach of the land owner?” Mr Kidd also suggested that if you can’t beat them join them, and consider alternative uses for our weeds and pests.

The conference was well subscribed with 60 papers given. Weeds regained the lead with 30 papers, while insects had 22, diseases 7 and others 1. An interesting and entertaining evening talk was given by Mr John Marris of Montana Wines followed by samples of the product! Average session attendance was 108.5 with a peak of 130. Ninety members attended the AGM.

A second edition of the Index to the Proceedings was produced in time for the 34th Conference and issued free to all financial members. This was a fairly expensive exercise as the whole publication had to be re-set. Now the contents are in “disc” future up-dates will be easier and relatively cheap. Progress has been made towards the 2nd edition of Standard Common Names for Weeds. Type setting has commenced but we are now held up while Botany Division finish changing all the botanical names of our of our common weeds! Preparation of material for a booklet in colour for the identification of weeds is proceeding but the production of the 3rd edition of Identification of Weeds and Clover is still held up by Editorial Services.

The Hawkes Bay Branch continues to be active and organised, among other things, a very successful seminar on Pesticide Resistance. The Canterbury Branch has returned to activity with a number of Field Days and Manawatu has held one meeting.