PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
to 34th Conference 1981
 G.C. Atkinson

As I end my term as President of this Society, I do so with some regrets and also some relief. Regret for a number of reasons, not least of which the sense of achievement of being President of such a vibrant and healthy organization. Relief because I leave this position in the belief that the Society is no worse off for my stewardship.

It is not by accident that the N.Z.W. & P.C.S. has managed to escape the woes of many organizations as they enter the penultimate decade of the 20th Century. That of apathy, declining membership and financial problems. The Society is attracting an increasing number of papers each year, and membership although not increasing in a dramatic fashion is showing some growth. One of the pleasing aspects is that conference attendances are higher each year. This is in the face of increasing costs for travel and accommodation and the competition from other societies who hold their conferences at or about the same time of year.

The Society in its Executive and Conference attendances has maintained a good balance of both Government and Private Enterprise participation. One trend which I find somewhat disturbing is the declining proportion of contributions that industry is making to written papers presented at the conferences. A decade ago, company authored papers amounted to 29%, whilst over the last two years only 10% with a low in 1980 of 7%. I see this as a problem which should be addressed and rectified as soon as possible.

Let us now look back over the past year and review the progress and activities of the Society beyond the conference itself.

The Third Edition of Identification of Weeds and Clovers was made ready for printing and publication during the first quarter 1981. The fact that the book is not ready for sale is for reasons beyond the Society's control, but urgent steps are being taken to rectify the situation.

In response to a request at the 1980 A.G.M. a list of National Research Projects pertaining to our topics was produced, printed and distributed to members at no cost and was well received.

Plans for publishing a weed identification booklet are progressing well and projections indicate that this can be finalised at a reasonable price to the purchaser. A Second Edition of the Index to Proceedings was published and is available to members. This was made possible by the efforts of a number of members, but in particular the Society is indebted to Dr. G.S. Hartley whose contribution is gratefully acknowledged.

A second printing of a Revised Standard Common Names is being planned for the last quarter 1981.

The Society has been able to maintain a high profile in its publications only through a sound financial position which it has managed to hold, in the face of spiralling costs of printing and postage. The subscriptions and conference fees charged by this Society are low compared with similar societies in New Zealand and overseas. This has in part been made possible by the valuable contributions from our Sustaining Members whose names appear at the front of the proceedings.

I would like to thank the executive and other members whose tireless efforts on the Society's behalf help make this Society the successful organization it is and I wish the Society well in the future.