Many of our members are already moving in this direction and I see our Society moving further that way in the future. However, I appeal to you to keep a sense of proportion, don't lose your heads jumping on the current bandwagon. Reduce agricultural chemical use by all means, but don't forget the great job these chemicals have done and still do. Just stop and think what chemicals have done to give us the freedom from pests we now take for granted. Look at the much maligned DDT. This chemical has saved millions of lives by controlling the malarial mosquito but has it actually killed anyone? It has probably done more harm to the world through its success than through its toxins; had DDT not saved so many lives, in places where people were conditioned to breeding replacement people, the world would not be so over populated now.

So as I hand the affairs of this Society over to my successors I thank all who have supported me over the past years as Secretary and as President, and wish the society prosperity in the changing years to come.

ANNUAL REPORT 1989-90

A.J. Popay

The 42nd annual conference was held in Taranaki with a good attendance. The large number of papers presented continues to reflect the importance of this forum for the dissemination of information on weeds, pests and diseases in New Zealand.

Disappointingly, however, the Society is facing a decline in membership which has continued over the last 4 years. This undoubtedly reflects the current scientific climate in New Zealand with the disaffection of many science and industry personnel. The decline in membership has inevitably had an effect on the Society's finances. As a result sustaining members have again been approached for their support for the first time in 3 years. Their contributions assist the Society's operating costs considerably and are gratefully acknowledged.

The Society this year lost a valuable committee member when the Vice-President, Colin Sharpe, transferred to a new position in Australia. Colin has served the Society very well over several years. The Society also notes with regret the death of a life member, Alan Meeklah, whose obituary appears in this Proceedings.

Due to the steady demand for "New Zealand Common Weeds in Colour" a further 5000 copies of the present edition were printed this year. A second edition is in the early planning stages.

Although the focal point of the Society is its annual conference two local branches remain active. Both Hawkes Bay and Waikato hold meetings, seminars, displays etc. for their members occasionally during the year.

NEW ZEALAND WEED AND PEST CONTROL RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship for the 1989/90 year was awarded to Mark Braithwaite. When the scholarship was awarded, Mark was completing an M.Sc degree at Lincoln University whilst working part time at MAF. His thesis was on fairy ring spot disease of carnations. He has now completed the formal requirements for his masters degree and the scholarship will be used to extend the results of his research to commercial growing conditions and to assist in the publication of results. Mark has recently taken up full time employment with MAF at Lincoln as a scientist.