**PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
to the 38th Conference 1985
M.S. MOORE**

I relinquish my two year tenure as President of our Society with some regret, in that perhaps a great deal has not changed in that time. It is however, gratifying to know that at least in the short term, the financial position of the Society is currently heading towards a much sounder position.

This has largely been brought about by the production and selling of Alan Upritchard's "NZ Common Weeds in Colour". It has certainly been the most successful publication exercise undertaken by the society — now just 5 months after reaching the market, over 60% of the production run has already been sold. A contribution has been made in both monetary terms, and in what the Society has to offer to a wide sector of the community. It has a large market potential, and I ask you all to promote further sales of this, together with other publications of the Society.

There has also been an increase in the number of members who belong to the Society. There was an increase in financial members last year to 408 and there appears to be a further increase on that this year, certainly a higher number than for a considerable time, or for all time. Some effort has been put into this area by your executive over the last year or so and appears to have brought dividends.

It is pleasing to see the Waikato, Hawkes Bay and Canterbury branches of the Society are still very active, having held field days etc. For example in July the Hawkes Bay branch organised a successful seminar on dicarboximide resistance to *Botrytis* in grapes. I wish to congratulate that branch on taking the initiative with such an exercise — it is in this type of activity that the Society really does have a role to play.

This year a new approach was tried in changing the date of notification of likely papers, from the traditional November to February to try to reduce the 45% fall-out which occurred last year. It proved successful in that this year we received 80 title papers in February, and as you can see from the Proceedings the eventual number published is 60 — a significant reduction in fall-out to 25%.

I mentioned in my Presidential address last year what a large contribution Dr Jennifer Hartley makes to our Society, both as Secretary, and Editor of the Proceedings — and where would we be without her efforts? Well, we are obviously going to find out, as she is resigning both these positions, although she is still willing to offer helpful advice.

We are indebted to Jennifer, for the many, often hard, and thankless hours she has put into these roles over many years, in fact 14 as Secretary, and 13 as Editor of the Proceedings. Her hard work and dedication to the cause of our Society in these roles will be greatly missed.

Of concern in considering the future of our Society is the government policy of introducing the 'user-pay' system into the research area. Many of our members, in fact approximately one third at present, are employed in the government sector and contribute 80-90% of the papers to our conferences. A quantity of their work in the future, will no doubt, have to be financed by industry. This brings up the question of who will own the data, and will it be so readily available for presentation to the conference and publication in the Proceedings?

Finally again I wish to thank our retiring Editor and Secretary, Dr Jennifer Hartley, the Executive Committee for their time and efforts during the year, the referees, sustaining members, sessional chairmen and the local organising committee.