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The 1985 Annual Conference, held at the DB Hotel, Rotorua, from 13-15 August, was well attended. Sixty papers were presented which, as usual, covered a wide range of topics. Some 70 members attended the AGM on 14 August at which considerable discussion took place on the form of the Proceedings and publication of the occasional controversial paper in it. This is a perennial question and solutions such as printing the Proceedings after the conference and including a chairman's summary seem unsatisfactory. The matter was resolved this year by a decision to post Proceedings prior to the conference only to registered conference attendants. All other Proceedings are to be distributed after the conference and are to include an errata which can clarify any controversial points in papers.

The 1985 conference also saw the end of an era with the retirement of Dr Jennifer Hartley as Secretary/Editor. Over the past 14 years she has given excellent service to the Society in this position and has now assumed the post of Vice President.

The Waikato, Canterbury and Hawkes Bay local branches have continued their activities over the past year. The year has also seen the formation of a new local branch at Nelson and we wish them success in their ventures. Alan Upritchard's book "NZ Common Weeds in Colour" has continued to be a best seller and had sold out by the end of 1985. A reprint of 5000 copies was commissioned and is now being distributed through retail outlets. Thanks largely due to the sale of this book, the society is in a very sound financial position.