PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
to 37th Conference 1984
M.S. Moore

The Society is in a reasonably sound position, however, could do with more residual income which can only come from an increase in membership numbers or fees. We cannot rely on income from publications, sustaining members and Conference profits indefinitely to keep our Society operating. The Society continues to maintain a high profile in its publications with Arthur Healy's "Standard Common Names for Weeds in N.Z." finally becoming available earlier this year. This new publication has many changes when compared to the 1969 publication, so many in fact, that it is imperative that the old one is discarded and a copy of the new one obtained. We were hoping to have Alan Upritchard's "Weeds in Colour" publication available at this Conference. It is close to completion, although the publication date has yet to be finalised. Please support and promote our publications. We have a low membership fee which must be increased, but as previously mentioned it is the publications which contribute greatly to the running of our Society.

There has been some growth in membership but the Society could certainly do with more. Dr. Barbara Barratt has been instrumental in organising the printing of a brochure outlining the Society's activities which has been sent to some 1500 potential overseas members — aimed primarily at overseas academic and research institutes. We believe we not only have much to offer locally with the information in our Proceedings, but this quickly published information could also be of interest on the international scene. We hope this positive approach will bring dividends.

It is heartening to see that the new Waikato branch is up and running very successfully, lets hope the initial momentum can be maintained. There are only two other branches presently operational — Canterbury which has had many field days over the last year, and Hawkes Bay. Let's see if we can't get a few more branches going.

This year some 126 paper titles were put forward with 69 eventually making it into the Proceedings. In an endeavour to reduce this loss or fall-out it is planned to change the requests for papers from November to February. There is strong support from the MAF sector this year, however, what is disconcerting is the all time low, equal to 1980, of five (7.25%) papers from the Agrochemical Industry. Many reasons have been put forward in the past for this low contribution, but I believe today it is for two main reasons. Firstly, the more intense market situation creates a reluctance to publish information in which an advantage can be taken by the competition, and secondly, there appears to be little recognition within the industry of those who make the effort to publish. There is certainly a great deal of interesting information being generated in this sector, though, we are obviously not getting access to it.

As you can see some worthwhile contributions are being made for the benefit of our Society's members. I ask you all to go out and promote our Society to potential members — remember we are not just a vehicle for publication but provide a number of other services.

I wish to thank the Executive Committee for their time and efforts during the year, the referees, and in particular our Editor and Secretary, Dr Jennifer Hartley, who does the bulk of the work for our Society. We are certainly indebted to her for the unflagging work she puts in — where would we be without her?

It is again of concern that papers are not covering the loss in production caused by weeds, insects or diseases, or the resultant return to the economy of their control, in other words cost/benefits. We keep hearing of the Government 'sinking lid' policy in the work domain of our Government members. Given some thought, it is not surprising that this is happening when we see just how little we are doing to promote the value of the work we are doing.

We as a country need to increase our exports by developing new markets, increase our primary production value in the market place, and increase production in those areas where there is room for more market development. The disciplines covered by our

members in plant pathology, weed science, entomology, agronomy etc. have an integral part to play in this drive. I believe we as a group are lying down and accepting the fact that we are being pushed back into a corner, when to achieve the objectives the country is aiming for, we should if anything be developing further. To do this we must get out and sell the contributions we can make. For example: Monsanto N.Z. Ltd has just sponsored a research project looking at the estimated costs of weeds to the Agricultural sector — surely a step in the right direction. A figure mentioned was a gross opportunity loss of as much as \$340 million at 1982/83 prices from weeds.

Our future careers, and the contributions we can make given the above figure in weeds alone, could be substantial. We shouldn't let people forget just how much we have to offer the economy and growers of New Zealand.

ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85

M.J. Hartley

The 37th Conference of the N.Z. Weed and Pest Control Society was held at the Russley Hotel, Christchurch, from 14-16 August 1984. The conference was opened by Dr Roy Nishimoto from the University of Hawaii who was on sabbatical at Ruakura. Dr Nishimoto gave his impressions of agricultural research in New Zealand in comparison to that in U.S.A.

The annual conference was again a popular forum for exchanging research information with 69 papers presented, 32 on insects, 29 on weeds and 8 on diseases.

The AGM held on 15 August 1984 was attended by 60 members. The executive had decided to take no further action on a name change for the Society and the AGM rejected the editor's call for a page charge on over long papers as a means of reducing the cost to the members of verbose authors.

Our new local branch, Waikato, has continued to be very active and organised, among other things, a seminar to avoid misuse of pesticides. Hawkes Bay and Canterbury are also still functioning satisfactorily but Manawatu and Dunedin have faded out.

The long awaited booklet on N.Z. Weeds in Colour, compiled by Alan Upritchard, has been printed and is selling well. Sales in the first four months have nearly cleared costs and most reports on the publication are very complimentary. I would like to thank Alan for all the work he has put into the production on the Society's behalf.

Finally, this will be my last annual report. After 14 years as Secretary of the Society I believe it is high time for a change. I have probably already held the office longer than is good for the Society. I have found the job most rewarding and hope that I have given satisfactory service. I believe the current high standing of the Society, as a publishing medium, may in part, be due to my efforts but I feel confident the Society will continue to flourish. I would like to thank all those people who have helped over the years and wish the Society continued prosperity.