ANNUAL REPORT

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The 27th Conference of the New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society was held at the Rutherford Hotel, Nelson, from 13th to 15th August, 1974. One hundred and eleven delegates attended the full conference and 83 attended for one or two days.

The Conference was opened by the Director of the Cawthron Institute, Dr Thornton and 48 papers were presented during the three days of the conference, of these 28 were on weed topics, 14 on insects, four on fungous diseases and two on application. In all, 37 authors and co-authors contributed and Dr Little gave an illustrated evening talk on some international weed problems.

The Annual General Meeting was held on the Wednesday afternoon of the conference and was attended by 89 members. The meeting elected Mr P. B. Lynch as an Honorary Life Member in recognition of his support and service to the Society since its inception. The AGM was followed by the Annual Dinner and social evening.

Membership of the Society has fallen slightly and now stands at 306 including overseas members.

There have been a number of field days held during the year, two in Hawkes Bay, two in Waikato and recently one in Manawatu organised by the local branch of the Society. This branch has also organised several evening meetings and this renewed activity is most welcome.

The highlight of the year could well be the completion of the Index to the Proceedings of the Society’s first 27 conferences. This mammoth work was undertaken by Messrs Allen and Leonard who have given us a most useful publication.

The first sets of the long awaited slides depicting disease symptoms on barley have been produced and sets for other cereals are being prepared. Unfortunately little progress has been made on the publication of booklets on cereal diseases and barley grass.

A “standardisation committee” was formed during the year to recommend standard conventions for expression of results in the proceedings. These have been followed by some authors and hopefully have made the paper easier to read.