

FOREWORD

Welcome to the 59th issue of *New Zealand Plant Protection*. This journal and the annual conference form the heart of our society and they are one of the key means by which we achieve the first objective within the Society Rules: “*to pool and exchange information on the biology of weeds, vertebrate and invertebrate pests and pathogens and beneficial organisms and methods for modifying their effects*”.

After 59 years of existence, the New Zealand Plant Protection Society is in good heart with strong membership and excellent conference participation. This current volume demonstrates the vitality of the society with a good cross-section of relevant papers. This journal forms a unique resource and is the single place where the majority of applied plant protection research relevant to New Zealand can be found. We are also well and truly in the digital age as all of the back issues of the *New Zealand Plant Protection* journal are now mounted on the website (<http://www.nzpps.org>) and available for downloading as pdfs. This has been an enormous undertaking led by the website editor John Kean.

Over the last year we have been involved in a number of publication initiatives and we will continue to support the publication of books that are relevant to the objectives of the society. We assisted in the publication of “Plant Protection in Organic Arable and Vegetable Crops – a grower’s resource”, which came out last year. In addition, our new book “Pesticide Resistance: Prevention and Management Strategies 2005” was released at the end of 2005. The current executive is following on from the publication of the pesticide resistance book with the reformation of the Pesticide Resistance Committees for Herbicides, Insecticides and Fungicides. We see this as especially important given the number of completely new plant protection chemistries being developed.

We have continued to award our research scholarship and student travel grants but have also had the privilege of awarding the inaugural Don Watkin’s Scholarship in Weed Science. The ability to support student development through these scholarships is an important initiative of the society.

One of the changes over more recent years is the increased importance of biosecurity research and this society has facilitated a number of workshops in this area. An exciting new biosecurity initiative over the last year, which involves many members of the Society, has been the establishment, via the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, of the ‘Better Border Biosecurity’ programme. I expect that in the future many publications in *New Zealand Plant Protection* will result from this long-term programme. Biosecurity New Zealand continues to work on the Biosecurity Science strategy and a draft strategy is due to be launched for public consultation in November.

Finally, the Society is supported by an excellent executive, who each put in a lot of effort in their own time and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge their work.

Philippa Stevens
President NZPPS