

## FOREWORD

The last year has seen adversity and success on an unprecedented scale for members of the NZPPS. The tragic loss of seven Crop & Food Research colleagues in the 6 June plane crash in Christchurch profoundly affected many members of the Society. Likewise and almost at the same time, New Zealand plant protection lost the eminent ecological modeller, Dr Nigel Barlow. The Society extends its sincere sympathy to all those affected.

Conversely, in the last year, the Government has seen fit to establish a National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technology based at Lincoln University. The establishment of this Centre, known as a CoRE (of which there are only seven in New Zealand), indicates that plant protection and biosecurity research in New Zealand is now well on the way to regaining recognition commensurate with its national importance. Indeed, this has been underscored in Issue 44 of *Biosecurity* wherein the Minister of Research, Science and Technology has noted that biosecurity is an essential prerequisite to New Zealand's nascent biotechnology industries. Such progress in recognition of our science area can be attributed to the excellence and determination of the members of the NZPPS. Thus prospects for the Society working with the CoRE to better serve New Zealand plant protection needs at a time of increasing land-use intensification and concern about biosecurity are good indeed.

This volume of research papers presented to the 2003 NZPPS Conference reflects the ongoing vigour of the NZPPS and the growing significance of biosecurity; it comprises 50 full papers and abstracts of 30 posters. The number of papers is somewhat less than last year, but can be explained by the exceptionally high level of last-minute withdrawals and large number of posters because of the demands of the recent FRST bidding round which was in the area of 'sustainable systems and communities'. Furthermore, there are fewer pathology papers than usual because of the very successful International Conference of Plant Pathology held 2-7 February 2003 in Christchurch.

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