

## FOREWORD

Mixed blessings would seem to be the message for plant protection workers over the last 12 months. Lincoln's National Centre for Advanced Bio-Protection Technologies and its Biotron were successfully launched by the Prime Minister in March. Some leading groups in plant protection lost out badly in the PGSF funding round; others fared better. MAF still grapples with adapting to its new role as Biosecurity Overlord since the publication of the National Biosecurity Strategy in 2003. Plant protection and biosecurity are closely entwined and the final form of the Biosecurity Authority is bound to affect many of our members and their work.

Our Society seems to prosper. We produced a second and much improved edition of *An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand*, which is reportedly selling well. Proceedings of last year's workshop on *Management of wilding conifers in New Zealand – present and future* has now been published. We also reprinted, yet again, the ever-popular best-seller *Guide to the Identification of New Zealand Common Weeds in Colour*, and have reprinted a brochure promoting the Society and the benefits of membership. The Secretary has copies. The Society is supporting publication, by Crop & Food Research, of a book on *Pest, disease and weed control for organic farming in New Zealand*. Nick Martin, assisted by Robert Beresford and Kerry Harrington, is preparing a published version of the pesticide resistance strategies that appear on our website. During the year the Society funded a student to explore the translation of the *Illustrated Guide* weed book into a Lucid® multi-access key. This worked well, and the authors of the book are now working towards the eventual publication as a CD-ROM.

During the year our long-serving and very competent website editor Ecki Brockerhoff resigned, and John Kean took up the reins. We have reconfirmed our agreement with HortResearch's Hortnet over hosting the Society's website, and we are still investigating the possibility of the society having [www.nzpps.org.nz](http://www.nzpps.org.nz) as its own domain name.

The Society is recognised by outside agencies as a leader in its field. Helen Percy of MAF's Sustainable Farming Fund asked whether a workshop on IPM (Integrated Pest Management) could be attached to our conference this year. The Society and its members have long promoted IPM, and we thought this would be an excellent opportunity for us to show support for the continued implementation of IPM.

This year has seen intense habitat competition for inveterate entomology conference-goers, with a Forest Entomology Conference in Hanmer Springs the week of our conference, and the International Congress of Entomology in Brisbane immediately afterwards. We were very pleasantly surprised to find that these events did not affect the number of papers offered for our Conference. The number of posters submitted continues to grow.

I believe it has been a good year for the Society: next year will be even better.

A.I. Popay

President NZPPS