

ANNUAL REPORT 1978-79

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The 31st Conference of the New Zealand Weed and Pest Control Society was held at the Devon Motor Inn, New Plymouth from 8-10 August 1978. The Conference was opened by one of our life members, Mr Dan Watkins who gave members food for thought on the future of the agricultural chemical industry.

In spite of a low number of papers presented, only 48, the Conference was very well attended with over a hundred delegates at many sessions and never less than 70. The A.G.M. was also well attended with a motion suggesting a biennial weed or pest conference on alternative years being heavily defeated.

Membership is holding up well and now stands at 340. The financial position of the Society is also satisfactory with no immediate need to raise subscriptions.

The Society's Executive has had a very active year contributing to a large number of topics on the Society's behalf. Probably the most important of these has been the Society's contribution to the Parliamentary Select Committee regarding the Pesticides Bill discussed at length by the committee at a special meeting and presented to the Select Committee by the President and Mr M.J. Esson. The submission strongly supported the concept and intent of the Bill and eleven points were made for the Select Committee's consideration. The main points concerned the title of the Act, "Crop Protection and Pesticide Act" being suggested as a less emotive and more correct definition within the intent of the Act, with corresponding changes in the summary. Secondly, the constitution of the Board should be changed to include two major users, namely applicators and forestry.

The President and Vice President presented a paper at the ANZAAS Conference in Auckland entitled "A Rational Approach to Pesticides" at the Symposium "Pesticides: For how much longer?". It is proposed that the papers presented at this Symposium will be printed in booklet form.

Following last year's Presidential Address, an approach was made to the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) for access to their publications pertaining to the use of pesticides. As a result of this the Society has applied for individual membership which will give access to selective publications on request and items of topical interest can be made available to our Society members.

The N.Z. Institute of Agricultural Science has approached our Society with a view to forming a local branch of the Commonwealth Association of Scientific and Agricultural Societies (CASAS) for which the NZIAS is the South Pacific representative. Discussions with our Society and other Agricultural societies in New Zealand are continuing.

Once again, the Hawkes Bay local branch must be congratulated on its active organisation of meetings and field days and their most ambitious project of a two-day horticultural producers seminar in July 1979 is a very real contribution to disseminating the Society's information at the user level.

After lengthy consideration a local branch constitution has been approved by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and is available to any local branch requiring a constitution.