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ANNUAL REPORT 1983-84

M.J. Hartley

The 36th Conference of the N.Z. Weed and Pest Control Conference was held at the Angus Inn Motor Hotel, Hastings, from 9th to 11th August 1983. The conference was opened by Dr Don Brash, Managing Director, N.Z. Kiwifruit Authority, who spoke about the past and future development of our kiwifruit trade. He emphasised how important hygiene was to the industry and how members of the Weed and Pest Control Society could help.

Our annual conference maintained its popularity as a forum for exchange of research information with 65 papers presented. Weeds maintained a small lead with 29 papers but insects were chasing hard with 25. Diseases came in at 11, a reduction on the previous year when stripe rust increased numbers.

The A.G.M. was held on Wednesday 10th August and attended by 75 members. The A.G.M. approved a change to the constitution to give the executive committee power to set the annual subscription as need be. This would reduce a long delay between the appearance of any financial difficulties and the ability to take remedial action by way of raising the subscription.

I am glad to report that at last the new edition of Standard Common Name for Weeds in N.Z. has been completed. This has been a mammoth task due to the number of plant names that have been changed by the International Taxonomists. The Society is deeply indebted to Arthur Healy and his helpers for all the work they have done in compiling the book. Apart from the 150 name changes there are 350 more plants listed than in the first edition. Family names are also included. Preparation of weeds in colour has progressed during the year and now looks near complete, thanks to Alan Upritchard.

We have a new thriving local branch established in Waikato with almost an embarrassment of members. Congratulations to Peter Pottinger and his team. Hawke's Bay and Canterbury Branches continue to prosper but, alas, no news from Manawatu or Dunedin.