

## ANNUAL REPORT 1982-83

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The 35th Conference of the N.Z. Weed and Pest Control Society was held at the Waikato Motor Hotel, Hamilton, from 9-12 August 1982. The Conference was opened by Mr John Kneebone, Past President of Federated Farmers.

The Conference was over subscribed with an unprecedented 79 papers presented. The high number, which was inflated by a statistical session, postponed from the previous year, and a long session on the "new" problem, stripe rust, forced the conference to overflow to the Monday afternoon. In spite of the extended time the conference was well attended throughout with 90 members at the start and 104 by the end of the first session. Several sessions attracted over 120 people. Weed control aspects dominated with 35 papers, while insects only just held off diseases with 21 to 20, others taking 3. The 10 papers on aspects of stripe rust were also published as a separate supplement which, unfortunately, has not sold well.

The A.G.M. was held at its usual time on the Wednesday and discussed several controversial items such as use of trade names in the proceedings and a change of name of the society. As a result, pesticides discussed in this year's Proceedings are, for the most part, identified by their trade names and formulation and all members were circulated for their views on the name of the Society. The questionnaire showed an absolute 50:50 split on the subject of name change with equally strong views for and against.

The 3rd Edition of Identification of Weeds and Clovers by A.J. Healy was finally completed in time for the 35th Conference. Sales are progressing and the Society has recouped some cost. A completely revised edition of Standard Common Names for Weeds in New Zealand has made some progress but serious delays have occurred in finalising remaining name changes. Delays have been beyond the control of the Society. At the time of writing the final copy is with the printers. Alan Upritchard has assembled an excellent collection of some 600 colour pictures of weeds to aid field identification but publication will be delayed while financial arrangements are made.

The Hawkes Bay branch of the Society continues to flourish with a number of meetings and a field day held. They have also organised the running of this conference. The Canterbury branch has been rather less active this year and Manawatu has gone quiescent. No activity has been heard from Dunedin.