



Annual Reports 1999

President's Report

The year since our meeting in Adelaide has certainly sped through with alarming pace. But for once your president can suggest a reason for this; it has only been 9 months since our last AGM!

The major annual event for the society is its conference. This represents a significant opportunity for all presenters to gain valuable exposure and experience. The meeting is also often the first chance that young presenters may have to make an oral presentation. Last year in Adelaide we didn't have much opportunity for our people to speak. This year it is pleasing to see our members back up front, presenting their results.

Planning is well underway for next year's meeting, to be held in Wellington in December. This promises to be a large and top class meeting of physiologists, biochemists and molecular biologists held in recent years in New Zealand. We have had several meetings with the conference organisers during the past year. A range of colloquia and symposia are suggested, but there will also be plenty of opportunities for our members to give oral presentations.

The year has also seen the production of the text book *Plants in Action*. Aimed at upper level undergraduates, the text emphasizes the practical relevance of plants in a modern world, as crucial elements of all ecosystems. A number of our society members should be congratulated for their input into this text: Rod Bielecki, Jim Dunlop, Ian Ferguson, Kevin Gould, Errol Hewett, John Palmer. My apologies if I omitted anyone from the list.

One issue which has come up, and was also outlined by Keith Sharrock last year concerns the establishment of a Primary Resource Association, and over-arching body for groups involved in the science of primary production. This suggestion arose from a strong feeling from contact with politicians that there were no strong voices speaking on behalf of the science of primary industries; an awareness of further pressure on research funding in this area and low recruitment of scientists into this area.

In February, Julian attended a meeting, with representatives of NZIAS, NZSHS, NZ Soil Sci Soc, NZ Soc Parasitol, NZ Plant Protection Soc, NZ Ento Soc, NZ Soc Farm Mgmt, and NZ Soc Anim Prod. It is our executives' view that we don't see ourselves belonging to this new body. While we can certainly see that a single political voice for the science of primary production would be good, we did not believe that a discipline based science-society such as ours is best aligned with a primary production sector.

During the year it is pleasing that we were able to provide financial support to the Seed Symposium that Michael McManus was involved with at Massey in February. We are also glad to be able to support student travel for Jason Johnson to travel to a Postharvest

Conference in Jerusalem in March 2000, and Angela Wakelin to attend an International Congress on sexual plant production in Banff, Canada in April.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julian Heyes for his outstanding efforts as secretary/treasurer of the society. Julian has worked tirelessly on the Society's behalf for the last seven years. I'm sure past presidents Julian has worked with will agree that nearly all the administrative load has been carried by Julian; he has played a major role in all Society business. Well done and thanks Julian - you can take a well-earned break.

All the best to society members for the year ahead.

Gavin Ross
President

Treasurer's Report 1999

This is my last report as Treasurer and I should like to take the opportunity to thank all Society members for their support of the Society over the last seven years. It has been the sense of contributing to a very worthwhile organisation, which has made a significant contribution to the conduct of Plant Physiology in New Zealand, which has kept me going.

Our membership is still around 145, although our subscription income was lower than in the previous (1997-1998) year. This is partly because in that year we tidied up considerable sums in arrears, but perhaps the novelty of being invoiced for your subs has worn off. The increased subscriptions for the 1999 year are now coming in but may lead to some less-active members reconsidering their need for Society membership. All members present at our annual Conference more than cover your subs in reduced registration costs, so we do not expect a large fallout.

There are several other items in the accounts which need mention. Our invested funds at the PSIS were on 18 month deposit with interest credited at the end of that period, so no interest is shown in the 1998-1999 financial year. We did not participate in an NZIAS/SHS conference so received no income from that source.

The Annals of Botany pays for only one speaker to our joint Societies when we meet with ASPP, so no income or expenditure for a visiting speaker is shown in our accounts. Because we were meeting in Australia last year, we raised our student subsidies significantly, giving three international study awards of \$250, our normal budgeted sum of approximately \$1000, and an additional input from the money we normally would have used for a speaker (\$1500).

We were well represented in Australia by both full and associate members and we can look forward with confidence to a good turn out of ASPP members at our joint meeting in Wellington in December 2000.

We supported two projects financially last year: a successful Seed Symposium at Massey University organised by Michael McManus, and the *Plants in Action* textbook which is on sale now. This project was largely the work of ASPP, but our Society's input is acknowledged (along with NZSHS). We hope the textbook will prove useful in undergraduate courses.

Finally, the Royal Society of NZ is now billing us annually for our affiliation fees, which is helpful, avoiding the peaks and troughs of the last few years. The International Association of Plant Physiology has not called for fees but has notified us that this may change after their next Council meeting at the International Botanical Congress in St Louis, August 1999. We are entitled to be represented at that meeting so if anyone knows of a member planning to attend, please bring that to our Secretary's attention.

Our accounts have once again been audited free of charge by Fluker, Denton & Co, Levin, as they have done since 1993. This has been an increasing burden on them, as law changes require more stringent reporting procedures. I had promised them this would be our last year, and they have confirmed that they are not available to act as our auditor in 2000. Many Societies are choosing to have their accounts "reviewed" rather than audited, and I would urge that we authorise Council to investigate this option for 2000.

As warned last year, our accounts have taken their anticipated dive, but we can now look forward to some replenishment of the coffers and consider the range of activities we wish to support in the years ahead. May I wish the Society long life and good health!

Julian Heyes