



## Annual Reports 2003

### President's Report

This is the 25th annual meeting of NZSPP as an incorporated society. Your Council considered marking the event in some special way but did not feel it would be easy to gather our founder members in Australia this year. Bernard Forde, our founding President and Life Member, has kindly agreed to assist me in preparing an article on the changes that have happened to our discipline and our Society over the last quarter century. We shall aim for some kind of celebration in New Zealand next year and will keep members informed as the plan unfolds.

It is a great pleasure for our Society to be meeting for the fourth time jointly with the Australian Society for Plant Science (1995 and 1998 in Australia, 2000 in New Zealand). There are significant pressures on smaller scientific societies which are forcing some to consider amalgamating with other groups. NZSPP, I am happy to say, has continued to grow in the last year. I wish I could say that this is a consequence of the generous science funding in our discipline; but the reality is that we have seen many of our colleagues again facing an uncertain future as FfRST pursues an unpredictable agenda with no apparent regard for scientific careers. I am sure our basic focus on providing meetings with a variety of other active societies and supporting students at the start of their careers is what allows us to maintain our membership under extremely trying circumstances.

Meeting at a ComBio conference has again provided wonderful opportunities to hear from some of the best people in their fields. It is pleasing to see that we have supported five students to attend this meeting. We note with satisfaction our successful nomination of the Annals of Botany Speaker (Associate Professor Kevin Griffin) and the plenary address by this year's Outstanding Physiologist, Prof Peter Bannister. As part of a Royal Society of New Zealand initiative to raise the profile of science in the community, we shall present Prof Bannister with his medal on two occasions: once here, and then again in Auckland at a combined scientific societies presentation evening in November.

On behalf of all our members I should like to acknowledge the constant support of the council and, in particular, Mike Clearwater, who has successfully completed his inaugural year as our Secretary. We are in good shape as we launch into the next 25 years.

*Julian Heyes*  
*President, NZSPP*  
*1<sup>st</sup> October, 2003*

## Treasurer's Report 2003

The statement of receipts and payments for the year ended 31 March 2003 is available as a hard copy.

We currently have approximately 161 members on our books (128 Full Members, 26 Associate Members and 7 Life Members), a small increase on last year. This number will change as we adjust for members who we have lost contact with.

Total income is \$8,211.26 less than the previous year because this year we did not receive a surplus from the 2001 conference. Our income from subscriptions increased this year, both from members catching up on arrears and from new members.

Total expenses increased for the current financial year by \$ 4,291.80, primarily because of \$3,000 paid in seed money for the 2002 conference and an increase in travel subsidies paid to students. In return for the conference seed money we have since received a surplus payment of \$11,000 (net \$8,000 income for the Society) for the 2002 conference, but this will be reflected in the balance for next year.

We are pleased to report an increase in student travel subsidies for the current financial year, with \$750 spent subsidising travel for three students to international conferences (\$250 each to Joanna McQueen, Jinquan Feng and Maria Castle), and \$900 spent supporting nine students traveling to the 2002 Canterbury conference (\$100 each to Toni Waugh, Maria Castle, Jan Binnie, Nigel Gapper, Suzanne D'Arth, Zhenning Du, Balance Chen and Jiancheng Song). We also made awards of \$100 for Best Poster (John Harris) and Best Oral Presentation (Nigel Gapper).

This financial year income approximately matched expenses and we closed the year with another healthy balance of \$18,459.78. Add to this the surplus from the 2002 conference seed money of \$8,000 that will be reported next year and the Society is in an exceptionally strong position. We are well placed to support as many students as possible to international conferences and to annual conferences in New Zealand or Australia. We are now increasing the amount paid to each student for travel support in reflection of our healthy bank balance and the increased cost of travel to Melbourne. We also strongly encourage members to seek new student and full members, and to identify potential applicants for student travel support.

Our accounts have been reviewed free of charge by Tania Delahunty, a chartered accountant based in Tauranga.

*Mike Clearwater*  
*Secretary / Treasurer NZSPP*