

Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the Seed Symposium held at Palmerston North on 12th February, 1999. The impetus for the Symposium was the visit to New Zealand, supported by a Fellowship from the Leverhulme Trust, of Professor Daphne Osborne, an international leader in research on seeds, as well as the realisation that the previous Symposium of this kind was held in Tauranga in August, 1991. A reconvening of the researchers who met at Tauranga to review seed research in New Zealand was, therefore, long overdue.

In addition to the participation of Professor Osborne, we were pleased that Dr. Peter Chandler, CSIRO Plant Industry Division and Professor John Hampton, Lincoln University were able to attend as keynote speakers. The primary aim of the Symposium and these Proceedings was and is to encourage collaboration amongst seed researchers in New Zealand. It was, therefore, pleasing to us that many of the active researchers on seeds in New Zealand were able to attend, and that all presenters have contributed to these Proceedings. To aid this collaborative process amongst researchers on seeds in New Zealand further, the addresses and contact details for all participants have also been included at the conclusion of the Proceedings. We would like to thank all those who agreed to present at the Symposium, to those who offered presentations and to those who attended to listen. Unlike the Symposium in 1991, which came under the umbrella of the annual meetings of the New Zealand Society of Plant Physiologists and the New Zealand Agronomy Society, this Symposium, in terms of the meeting dates for other Societies, stood alone.

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Finally it is our wish that the next Symposium for seed researchers in New Zealand occurs before 2007!

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