

By way of introduction for those who do not know me I am the Professor of Dairy Production at Lincoln University, where I have been lecturing and researching in forage and dairy production systems since 2004. I graduated before from Lincoln University with B Ag Sci before taking a DPhil at Oxford University in animal behaviour. My current research interests are in mitigating the environmental impacts of dairy farming through a combination of feeding and management approaches. I have a strong interest in farm systems research and am pleased to be involved in Pastoral 21 Phase 2, where at Lincoln we are examining next generation dairy systems for Canterbury. A strong focus here is the use of efficient dairy systems, with lower stocking rates to reduce environmental footprint while sustaining high milk solids production.

The NZSAP conference held in early July at Napier was a great success. Well done to the team, led by **Professor Steve Morris** from Massey University, who put it all together. There were some excellent presentations set against the beautiful backdrop of views over the bay. The "Living Legend" presentation delivered by **Dr Geoff Nicoll** on *The sire breeding programmes of the Department of Lands and Survey and Landcorp Farming Limited* was again well received. Likewise, there was an excellent presentation from **Dr Peter Janssen** on *Rumen Microbial Community Profiling as a Tool to Study Ruminant Production* delivered as the Landcorp lecture. We were also fortunate to be able to present **Professor Derrick Moot** the Sir Arthur Ward Award to recognise the contribution and successful application of scientific research to aspects of animal production in New Zealand. In the forage contract section, Professor Moot gave an excellent presentation outlining his research on lucerne management and how results have been disseminated to farmers. This work is a great example of science that makes a significant impact on farm. Finally, a life membership was awarded to **Professor Andrew Sykes** for his contribution to the society. Unfortunately, Andrew could not be there on the night; we aim to make a formal presentation to Andrew at the 2015 conference.

A highlight at the conference was the young members section. The young members section is based on assessment of both the written paper published in the Proceedings and the conference presentation. Six young members competed in the final stage of the competition, with **Birch Jenkinson** emerging the winner for his paper and presentation on *Grazing behaviour, dry matter intake and urination patterns of dairy cows offered kale or fodder beet in winter*. Congratulations Birch on an excellent presentation. There were changes this year to the prize money for the young members section. The six finalists all received \$500 and Birch as winner picked up a further \$500.

Our editor Sam Peterson, back again after a few years absence, did a great job in getting the Proceedings together on time. This is never an easy task with delays at various stages of the production process. Of note, is that planning is already well advanced for the 2015 conference to be held in Dunedin from Sunday 28 June to Wednesday 1 July. John McEwen is the conference organiser. The theme is Options and Opportunities around South Island hill country. The hill country is a very important part of the NZ livestock sector, but an area that has received little

research attention in recent years. The conference is an excellent opportunity for members to demonstrate the importance of the sector, and show how their research can be used to promote new options and opportunities as well as report on existing systems. It would be great to get more than 60 papers in Dunedin next year. Details of abstract submission can be found in the later part of the newsletter. If you have any good ideas for contract sessions, field trips, other activities or you just want to help out then now is the time to get in contact with John McEwen.

The new NZSAP committee has held one meeting so far. There are a few changes: Chris Logan has moved into the Vice President role, and Racheal Bryant has taken over the role as the newsletter coordinator. The committee has also appointed two 'Farmer Representative' positions. John Booker from Canterbury returns to one of these roles, with the other taken by Mark Illston from Taihape. This is a good initiative as with all science we need to ensure we have relevance to the end user, and these farmer representatives will play a key role in this.

One of the first actions of the committee has been to make the NZSAP Proceedings open access. The complete archive of Proceedings dating back to 1941 is now available online at the NZSAP website. I believe the initiative to get the papers on line is a great one and should enhance the readership of our Proceedings both domestically and internationally. From a personal perspective at Lincoln University, for a range of reasons, students were using the proceedings less and less. Hopefully, this will go some way to ensuring that the important material from our society is more accessible, with better outcomes for animal production in NZ.

A final point, is that in 2014 the society did not award the McMeekan Memorial Award. There are many worthy candidates who should be nominated. Please follow the guidelines on our webpage and make nominations to the management committee. More details later in this newsletter.

Grant Edwards

NZSAP President

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICES

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 2015 NZSAP CONFERENCE

NZSAP CONFERENCE 2015

The 2015 NZSAP conference will be held in **Dunedin from Monday 29 June to Wednesday 1 July with the theme: "Options and opportunities around South Island hill country"**

Abstracts for papers for the 2015 Conference are due by Friday 5th December 2014

Information on key dates and contacts for abstract submission are available via the NZSAP website www.nzsap.org.nz

NZSAP PROCEEDINGS NOW FREE ONLINE

The proceedings of the NZSAP is now open access and can be accessed using the following link www.nzsap.org/proceedings

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS 2014-2015

The Management Committee is seeking recommendations for the **McMeekan Memorial Award** and the **Sir Arthur Ward Award** as well as conferment of **Honorary Life Membership**. The Committee shall consider recommendations from members and formal nominations will be read at the 2015 Annual General Meeting. **Honorary Life Members** shall be persons who have rendered significant service to the cause of animal production.

The **McMeekan Memorial Award** recognises an outstanding individual contribution made to New Zealand animal production and/or the Society, during the previous five years. Nominations must be signed by two financial members of the Society and must contain documented evidence of the way or ways in which the nominee's efforts have made an outstanding contribution to New Zealand animal production and/or the Society during the five years before the nomination. A potential recipient need not be a current member of the Society. The Award is in honour of Dr C P McMeekan a foundation member, past president, life member and distinguished leader in animal production, research and administration in New Zealand and the world.

The **Sir Arthur Ward Award** recognises the successful application of scientific research or farmer experimentation through a series of trials or effective extension when applied to an aspect of animal production in New Zealand. The nominee may be an individual, a company or an organisation, and need not be a member of the Society. Nominations must be signed by two financial members of the Society and must contain documented evidence of how the nominee's efforts have made a substantial contribution towards the adoption of a practice(s) that has facilitated more efficient animal production in terms of output per animal, per labour unit or per farm. The phrase "adoption of a practice" is to be broadly interpreted and may relate to the development of a technique, a piece of equipment, or a husbandry practice; the effective encouragement of sound principles of animal production; or the development of a new aspect of animal production.

TO NOMINATE SOMEBODY FOR AN AWARD, PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, KATE CROOKSTON: PO Box 955, Cambridge 3450, NEW ZEALAND email: nzsap.inc@gmail.com

- Position
- Name of Nominee (Printed) and signature of Nominee
- Proposer (Print name) and Proposer's signature
- Seconder (Print name) and signature of Seconder
- Date

NEW MEMBERS

The NZSAP would like to welcome all our new members:

Dr Jose Rossi

Miss Lucy Coleman

Miss Rebecca Eivers

Mr Ben Allott

Ms Heidi Jack

Ms Lianne Fermin

Dr Nicola Dennis

Ms Sharini Somasiri

Miss Antoinette Danso

Prof Peter Kemp

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL?

To reduce demand for paper and therefore drive down the international carbon price, we are now offering you the opportunity to receive a nice crisp PDF of our newsletter delivered to your Inbox!

If you'd prefer to get your newsletter the modern way – just email Kate Crookston, Executive Secretary at nzsap.inc@gmail.com and she will make it so.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

		Phone	Fax	Email	Location
PRESIDENT	Grant Edwards	03 423-0660		Grant.Edwards@lincoln.ac.nz	Lincoln University
VICE- PRESIDENT	Chris Logan	03 423-0670		Chris.Logan@lincoln.ac.nz	Lincoln University
Past-PRESIDENT	David Pacheco	06 351 8232	06 351 8003	david.pacheco@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Grasslands
TREASURER	Thomas Lopdell	07 856-0518		tlopdell@lic.co.nz	LIC Hamilton
SECRETARY	Nicola Schreurs	06 356 9099		N.M.Schreurs@massey.ac.nz	Massey University
NEWSLETTER	Racheal Bryant	03 423 0656		Racheal.Bryant@lincoln.ac.nz	Lincoln University
PUBLICATIONS	Paul Kenyon	06 356 9099	06 350 5636	P.R.Kenyon@massey.ac.nz	Massey University
EDITOR	Sam Paterson	06 356 9099		S.PETERSON@MASSEY.AC.NZ	Massey University
WEB SITE	Rebecca Hickson	06 356 9099		r.hickson@massey.ac.nz	Massey University
EXEC. SEC.	Kate Crookston	07 823 9345		nzsap.inc@gmail.com	Cambridge
CONFERENCE	Neville Jopson	03 477 6375		NJopson@abacusbio.co.nz	AbacusBio
CONFERENCE	John McKeown	03 489 9227		john.mcewan@agresearch.co.nz	Agresearch Invermay
S.I. FARMER REP	John Booker	03 314 4129 (day)		j.booker@amuri.net	Hawarden
N.I. FARMER REP	Mark Illston	06 388 7804		Illston@actrix.co.nz	Taihape

An electronic version of this newsletter and other information on the Society is available at:
www.nzsap.org.nz

Any contributions to the Newsletter should be forwarded to: Racheal Bryant, Lincoln University, AGLS Faculty, PO Box 84, Lincoln University 7647

Email: Racheal.Bryant@lincoln.ac.nz

Return Mail Address:
 Kate Crookston
 Executive Secretary
 New Zealand Society of Animal Production
 PO Box 955
 Cambridge 3450
 NEW ZEALAND

