



PRESIDENT'S PIECE _____ OCTOBER 2020

It is from an unusual position that I write this president's piece. For as long as I can remember the October newsletter contained an introduction to the in-coming president. This year, as a result of the motion at the AGM the term of the president, vice president and past president have been extended to two years. This means that rather than introduce myself let me briefly outline the current situation of the society and our plans going forward.

NZSAP as with many other science bodies in New Zealand is facing a number of challenges associated with COVID-19 disruptions, decreasing membership and reduced science funding. As a society we are in an enviable position of having financial reserves that allow us to continue providing awards and funds. These resources, however, are finite and as a society we need to be thinking about the future. In conjunction with the presidents of the NZ Grassland Association, NZ Plant Protection Society, NZ Society of Animal Production, NZ Agronomy Society and NZ Soil Science Society I have been involved in discussions around avenues of engaging more effectively with stakeholders such as government, CRI's, universities and industry bodies.

An initiative that the management committee is currently working towards is a change to the timing of the society's annual conference. It is likely that the 2021 conference will be held in November. As a result of the change in timing of the conference you will find later in this newsletter a revised call for abstracts and timeline for submission. Once more details about the conference are confirmed we will communicate this to you.

In light of the current challenges, the NZSAP management committee is working towards future-proofing the society. To this end we are interested to know how our members see the role of the society, the advantages of membership and the value of conferences. We have created a short survey that should take no longer than 5 minutes to answer. We would really appreciate your input to the future planning of the committee.

Rene Corner-Thomas

NZSAP President

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NZSAP 2020 VIRTUAL YOUNG MEMBER SESSION _____

Despite the 80th NZSAP conference 2020 in Queenstown being cancelled due to COVID 19, many members joined us to support our young members by attending the virtual session. Three young members: Franzi Weik, Sheen Yee Goh and Stacey Hendriks presented their work on various animal science topics. A big congratulation to **Stacey Hendriks**, who won the young member award for 2020. The young member session was followed by the virtual AGM.

REMINDERS _____

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 2021 NZSAP CONFERENCE

DUE: **1ST FEBRUARY 2021**

SUBMIT ONLINE AT: <http://www.nzsap.org/content/conference>

NOMINATIONS FOR NZSAP AWARDS

DUE: **31ST JANUARY 2021**

--- McMeekan Memorial Award --- Sir Arthur Ward Award ---
75th Jubilee Technician Award -- Honorary Life Membership

APPLICATIONS FOR NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE TRAVEL AWARDS

DUE: **31ST JANUARY 2021**

Application details can be found here:

<http://www.nzsap.org/nzsap-animal-science-award>

2021 NZSAP MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Keep an eye out in December 2020 for an email notification that subscriptions are due for payment. Prompt payment is appreciated.

NZSAP MEMBERSHIP FEES 2021 _____

Full membership	\$95
Student membership	\$47.50
Australian members	\$95
Rest of World members	\$125

NZSAP CONFERENCE 2021

It is likely that the 2021 conference will be held in November. Once more details about the conference are confirmed we will communicate this to you.

To submit a paper to the NZSAP 2021 proceedings an abstract must first be submitted no later than **Monday 1st February 2021**. Further information on key dates and abstract submission are available via the NZSAP website: <http://www.nzsap.org/content/conference>

NZSAP PROCEEDINGS - FREE ONLINE

The proceedings of the NZSAP are available open access and can be accessed using the following link: www.nzsap.org/proceedings

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS 2021

The Management Committee is seeking recommendations for the **McMeekan Memorial Award**, the **Sir Arthur Ward Award**, the **75th Jubilee Technician Award**, as well as conferment of **Honorary Life Membership**. The Committee shall consider recommendations from members and formal nominations will be read at the 2020 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.

The **75th Jubilee Technician Award** recognises outstanding contribution by an individual technician to the facilitation of quality research in New Zealand animal production and/or the

Society. To be eligible for consideration the position description or job title of the nominee must reflect a technical position. Nominations must be signed by two current financial members of the Society and must contain documented evidence of the way in which the nominee has fulfilled the objectives of the Award and made an outstanding contribution to New Zealand animal production and/or the Society. A potential recipient need not be a current member of the Society. The Award is in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of NZSAP.

To nominate somebody for an award, please send the following to the Executive Secretary:

NZSAP, c/- School of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University, Private Bag 11-222, Palmerston North 4442. 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

NOTICE

RESILIENT PASTURES SYMPOSIUM 2021

11-12 May, 2021

Symposium to secure pastures' future.

New Zealand Grassland Association is planning to hold a symposium on Resilient Pastures in May 2021. This will be 10 years after the very successful Pasture Persistence Symposium and a great chance to both review progress and challenge future research direction.

Pasture underpins our agricultural economy, earning 40% of export revenue. However, pastures are not performing to their potential, and must evolve to support changing sector expectations.

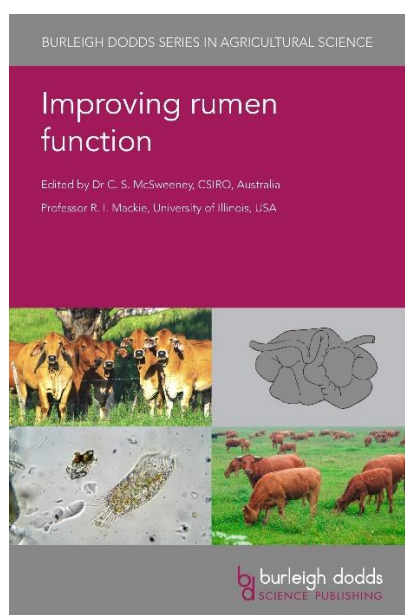
We invite industry agencies and companies to be part of the Resilient Pastures Symposium 2021. The programme will include:

- current pasture performance in the context of rising challenges;
- the factors that have restricted gains in productivity in recent years;
- new and emerging solutions, and needs not currently being addressed;
- farmer perceptions and realities around pasture performance
- how well NZ is positioned to develop effective pasture solutions for farmers (considering the combined capacity of industry bodies, private technology development companies, and CRIs/Universities)
- is our R&D investment well-directed and right-sized?
- what can Regenerative Agriculture contribute?

The NZ Grassland Association and the Resilient Pastures Symposium Organising Committee is looking forward to you joining us in May 2021 to ensure that your voice is heard during these critical conversations.

<https://www.grassland.org.nz/eventdetails.php?eventnum=38>

BOOK PROMOTION



Understanding the rumen is of critical importance to livestock production as the function of the rumen impacts nutritional efficiency, emissions from ruminants, as well as the overall health of the animal.

Burleigh Dodds Science Publishing's latest publication, *Improving rumen function* reviews what we know about rumen microbiota and the role of nutritional strategies in optimising their function for more sustainable livestock production.

Key features

- Reviews advances in understanding the role of different types of rumen microbiota such as archaea, anaerobic fungi, viruses and the rumen wall microbial community
- Covers both the way the rumen processes fibre and protein and factors affecting outputs such as energy (affecting animal health), lipids (affecting meat and milk quality) and methane emissions (affecting environmental impact)
- Comprehensive review of the range of nutritional strategies to optimise rumen function such as the role of pasture, silage, cereal feed, plant secondary compounds and probiotics.

Special Offer

Enter code **NZSAP20** at checkout via Burleigh Dodds' [website](#) to receive **20%** off the book.

NEW MEMBERS

The NZSAP would like to welcome our new members:

Craig Thomas

Natasha Jacques
Laura Keenan
Teresa Anderson
Anthony Oswald
Craig Thomas

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