While it was tempting to write this piece on the big dry and what it might mean for our farmers I have instead decided to focus on a few issues confronting the society and that will require some discussion at the upcoming conference.

Firstly, our long serving and hardworking editor Roland and his able assistant Rell have decided to retire from their positions. I am sure you will all join me in thanking them both for their dedicated service over many years. Luckily the management committee is in discussion with two potential candidates for the role. Roland’s retirement is an appropriate time to ignite discussions on the future format of our proceedings and potentially conferences. It is important to remind ourselves of the purpose of the papers which are to provide new information to our members through the proceedings and to encourage scientific discussion and debate at the conference. In the last five years there has been an apparent increase in the number of brief communications at a time when total papers have tended to reduce (with just over 50 this year). Many research groups have utilised the brief communication option as a means to publish their work in New Zealand and encourage discussion at the conference while not limiting their ability to publish the work in an international journal. Being able to publish in full refereed journals is very important for academic university staff in the current PBRF government funding structure. During the last 10 years our colleagues in Australia have moved to a model of conferences every second year that have options with either one page papers or full papers published within the Animal Production Science journal. As a society we need to decide if we are happy with the current format mix of our proceedings or if changes are required. We need to ensure we have a proceeding structure that encourages as many groups as possible to publish which would have a flow on effect of increased participation at our conferences.

The second issue we need to discuss is the reduction in applicants for the young member’s award. This year we only have three. Currently a young members applicant needs to submit and write a full paper. Those who submit a brief communication are not eligible. However, many young honours, masters and PhD students have realised that publishing in full refereed journals will increase their chances for further post graduate study or employment, in an increasing competitive environment. It is likely we need to address the current rules for the young members award.

Thirdly, currently each year we produce a CD containing papers from the most recent conference in addition to a CD with all previous proceedings. This will move to DVD format this year with everything on just one DVD. However, with the new NZSAP webpage that is about to be released to all paid-up members will have a direct link through to Sciquest and all NZSAP papers in a fully searchable system. Therefore should we stop producing these DVDs, change to producing a new DVD say every five years or continue with a DVD every year?

Lastly, Professor Kevin Stafford has finished writing our next occasional publication based on Animal Welfare. It is possible that this new book may be available at the Hamilton conference. Therefore as a society we may wish to consider our next publication(s) or whether it is time to update some of our current ones. At last year’s conference it was mooted that a publication on the various pasture based farming systems would be a worthy addition. Others have also considered the need for a publication on wool. All ideas an thoughts welcome.
I hope I have given you all something to think about. I have not meant to be negative in any regard but instead have aimed to stimulate discussion so that as a society we can continue to move forward. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Hamilton conference. If you cannot attend the conference but have some views on the above points please feel free to contact me.

Hopefully by the conference it has rained but temperatures have remained warm so that grass growth has occurred for our farmers.

Paul Kenyon.
NZSAP President

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are bloody good ones, but are not necessarily those of the NZSAP

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**VERY IMPORTANT NOTICES**

1. **YOUR SUBS ARE NOW OVERDUE** – IF YOU HAVE A YELLOW SHEET INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER – PLEASE SEND THEM TO JANE KAY, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ASAP

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**NZSAP CONFERENCE 2013**

The 2013 Conference will be held at the Kingsgate Hotel in Hamilton.

The conference will open at 8am on Tuesday 2nd July and finish early afternoon on Thursday th July.

Registration details will be available soon via the NZSAP website [www.nzsap.org.nz](http://www.nzsap.org.nz)

Also a reminder to all conference presenters please register for the conference.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

In addition to a broad range of contributed papers, the programme also features a contract session entitled **Farming within limits**:

Nutrient limits are soon to become the new reality for farmers across the country if they are not already facing them such as in Taupo and Rotorua. This session will explore what this means from a sheep and beef farmer’s perspective, what this will mean for animal production science and provide some examples of mitigation strategies and tools that are being used in the dairy sector and the deer industry.

The **field trip** this year will be looking at sheep, beef and hobbits!

The Alexander farm is a 1,250 acre traditional sheep and beef farm and is operated by the brothers Craig and Russell Alexander. The farm runs approximately 3,000 sheep and 300 Angus beef cattle. Nestled in the heart of the farm lies the Hobbiton Movie Set from The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit film trilogy which is a joint venture partnership with Peter Jackson. The set has been completely rebuilt and can be seen as it appeared in the films.

Craig Alexander will give us an overview of the family farm (including their dairy interests in Southland), the policies they run and how Hobbiton came to be. We will then have a guided tour through Hobbiton that even non-Lord of the Rings fans will enjoy! The tour finishes at the Green Dragon Inn for a complimentary Hobbit beer brewed especially for Hobbiton.
2013 Annual General Meeting of NZSAP

The 73rd Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production Inc. will be held at the Conference Venue Hamilton

Agenda

Apologies
Minutes from 2012 Meeting
Matters Arising
Presidential Report
Treasurer’s Report
Editor’s Report
Publication Manager’s Report
Election of Officers
Next Conference
General Business

Signed: Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF 2012 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NZSAP

Meeting Date: 02 July 2012
Meeting Time: 18:00 h
Meeting Place: Room 1 Stewart Building, Lincoln University

President Steve Morris declared the meeting open at 18:05 h on the 2nd July 2012.

In attendance: 32 members.

Apologies
John Smith, Andrew Sykes, Sally-Ann Turner, Graeme Burrell.

Apologies received and accepted. Moved Steve Morris. Carried.

Minutes of previous AGM

Motion that the minutes of the AGM on 28th of June 2011, circulated in the newsletter are accepted as a true and correct record. Moved Steve Morris/Roland Sumner. Carried.

Matters arising from the minutes

3.1 None
**President's Report**

Key points:

- Objectives of the society are being met. It was acknowledged that we could always do better, but in general, the NZSAP is promoting a) active collaboration between scientists, b) assistance of young talent and c) promotion of the value of the science related to food and science production.
- Great to have the combined ASAP/NZSAP joint conference, as it strengthens the collaboration between the two countries.
- Promotion of the value is an area where we could do better, and as member of the NZSAP maybe we should be more vocal in promoting the value that science brings to pastoral production.
- Vote of thanks to the members of the 2011-12 Management Committee of the NZSAP and also to the 2012 Organising Committee of the 2nd Joint Conference ASAP/NZSAP, Jane Kay (Executive Secretary) and Roland and Rell Sumner (Proceedings Editor).
- Membership stable at 443 members.
- Second year of the new initiative “Living Legends”. Capture the knowledge of the career of distinguished scientists as they get close to retirement.
- Second combined ASAP/NZSAP conference. It would be good to start thinking about a Third Joint Conference in 2016, maybe back in Australia (Brisbane?).
- Awards in 2011: Chris Morris (McMeekan Award), Paul Kenyon (Sir Arthur Ward Award), Stewart Ledgard (Landcorp Lecture), Fiona Fishpool (Young Members Award), Mark Collins (Lincoln Jubilee Award), Casey Inverarity (Massey Jubilee Award), Tom Barry (Living Legend Lecture). Innovation Award not awarded in 2011.

Questions/discussion:

- Timing about possible combined conference in 2016. Preferably to be in first week of July. Due to travel across the Tasman, if 2016 goes ahead maybe Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane need to be considered as the venue, rather than Western Australia.
- Andrew Grer presented the idea of an increased collaboration with schools. Rather than just sponsoring the Otago Science Fair, the idea is to get scientists who could be interested (in a volunteer basis) in giving their names for school to be in contact with those scientists (school visits, Skype conference, etc.). This idea was well received. This would be a national initiative, rather than regional or limited to the South Island. Another option is to rotate the support given to Otago to other areas. For example, Waikato used to have a science fair where the NZSAP used to be involved.

Motion that the President report be accepted. Steve Morris. Carried.
**Treasurer’s report.**

Presented by Vicki Burggraaf.

Hard copies of the Annual Financial report for the year ended 31 December 2011 were made available at the meeting for the members attending the AGM.

Key points:

- Revenue of $146,933, expenditure $138,331. This resulted in a net surplus (after impairment of investments) of $3,441.
- Main items in revenue were conference ($65 K) and subscriptions and publications ($49 K), with the rest comprised of donations, interests, and sundry income).
- Main items in expenditure were the conference expenses ($62 K), publications and printing ($29 K), awards ($21 K), with the rest comprised of administration expenses.
- Closing equity was $600,205

Jock Macmillan congratulated the treasurer for on presenting the accounts that place the society in a good financial position in spite of the current financial situation. Not many professional societies have the financial basis to support members and young members like NZSAP does.

Vote of appreciation to treasurer carried by acclamation.

Motion that the treasurer’s annual financial report as circulated be accepted as an accurate record of the society’s accounts. Vicki Burggraaf/Steve Morris. Carried.

Motion that the annual subscriptions for 2012-13 remain at $85 for full members, $42.50 for student and retired members and US$85 for overseas members outside Australia. Vicki Burggraaf/Paul Kenyon. Carried.

Motion that the Management Committee appoints Auditors for the 2012 society’s accounts. Vicki Burggraaf/Nicola Schreurs. Carried.

**Publication manager’s report**

Presented by Paul Kenyon

- Occasional publication. Mineral book well received, but sales now are slowing down.
- Two OP current under way. Kevin Stafford writing the Welfare OP. Some chapters ready and circulating to members of the society for review. Different approach for this OP as $10 per book sold will go to Kevin Stafford.
- Second OP Wool book. David Scobie and Roland Sumner. This has been slowed down due to the cost of Scobie’s time to write the book. No success to finance this book from wool organisations. Option is for the society to finance this publication. Realistically it will be hard that the society will recover investment from book sales.

Discussion needs to be had regarding how to finance OP, not only the wool book, but also future books. Maybe need to try to market the book to other markets were pastoral farming is also important (eg. Ireland). Other suggestions were to publish OP as electronic versions only. However, it is clear that the main cost in not printing, but the authors’ time. Other options suggested were to look for overseas interest and funds for the book (eg. South America).

There was no clear mandate perceived at the AGM re: investing NZSAP money into funding the wool book.

Motion that the Publication manager’s report be accepted. Paul Kenyon/Steve Morris. Carried.
Election of officers (2012-2013)

Nominations for the following positions were received:

- **Past-president**  Steve Morris (Massey University)
- **President**  Paul Kenyon (Massey University)
- **Vice President**  David Pacheco (AgResearch)
- **Secretary**  Nicola Schreurs (Massey University)
- **Treasurer**  Mhairi Sutherland (AgResearch)
- **Editor**  TBA
- **Newsletter**  Chris Logan (Lincoln University)
- **Publications**  Penny Back (Massey University)
- **Conference Organiser**  Kathryn Hutchinson (AgResearch)
- **Website Manager**  Rebecca Hickson (Massey University)
- **Co-opted member**  John Booker (farmer liaison).

Steve Morris called from any last minute nominations from the floor, and none being put forward, called for the nomination for officers to be closed. There being only one nomination for each position, the nominated persons were declared elected. Carried by acclamation.

### 2013 Conference

- 2013 Conference will be in Hamilton.
- Kathryn Hutchinson is the Chair of the Local Organising Committee.
- Intended to be in the last meeting 2nd-4th July 2013.
- Kathryn invited members to put their names forward to be part of the local organising committee.

### General business

- Jane Kay is leaving the Executive Secretary position.
- Kate Crookston (from Cambridge, ex LIC) will take the reigns as Executive Secretary.
- Vote of thanks to Jane for her sterling efforts over the last 5 years as Executive Secretary of the NZSAP. Moved by Alistair Nicol/Jock McMillan. Carried by acclamation.
- Roland Sumner (editor of proceedings) offered thanks to the members of the NZSAP for the efforts as reviewers of papers. Carried by acclamation.
- Vote of thanks to members of the management committee that are retiring after several years of contributing to the NZSAP. Scott Rains, Aaron Meikle, Andy Greer. Moved Jason Archer. Carried.
- Alistair Nicol recounted that he requested support of the society to write a book about the centenary history of Ashley Dene. The book has taken a bit longer than planned, and therefore Alistair suggested the NZSAP writes a letter requesting a completion of the book as soon as practicable. Andy Greer informed that the management committee discussed the item as part of their meeting the night before.
- Vote of thanks to the Roland and Rell Sumner for their team effort as editors of the proceedings. Moved by Andy Greer. Carried by acclamation.
• Jock McMillan reinforced his comment about the role of NZSAP promoting pasture based systems and extending the opportunity of doing things together with our sister associations in South America and Ireland. Robyn Dynes outlined experiences had with the Rural Futures Conference ran in conjunction with the Scottish Agricultural College. Some learnings from that experience could be applied to establish links to professional associations overseas.

Awards

• No nominations received for McMeekan, Sir Arthur Ward Award and Life Member Awards. Steve Morris reminded the AGM that nominations need to be considered and sent to the Management Committee.

• Citation for the Lincoln College Centennial Award was read by Alistair Nicol. This award recognises substantial contribution to the academic programmes of the University by hosting students fieldtrips or providing opportunities for practical experience. The recipients this year were Matt and Sue Latham. They manage a sheep/beef farm in a complex farm with a variety of soils and livestock classes. The complex interactions between soil, climate and livestock classes requires an experienced manager to ‘put all the pieces of the jigsaw together’. Students visiting the Leighton’s property are aware of that skill, and Matt is very happy to share his knowledge with the students.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm until the conference dinner.

Meeting reconvened at 8.45 pm on 4th of July for the Conference Dinner, Awards Ceremony at the Legends Lounge of the Addington Raceway, Christchurch.

University Jubilee Awards:

- Lincoln University Jubilee Award
- Massey University Jubilee Award
- Young Member Award
- McMeekan Award
- Sir Arthur Ward Award
- Life Member
- Living Legend

- Hannah MacIntyre
- Max Turnbull
- Quentin Sciascia
- Not awarded
- Not awarded
- Not awarded
- Alistair Nicol

Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

NOMINATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2013-2014

Nominations for committee members are requested by April 30, to the Executive Secretary. The nominee, nominator and seconder must be members of the Society. The committee will be elected by postal ballot with the result announced at the Annual General Meeting, except that the Vice-President automatically becomes President, and the current President automatically becomes Immediate Past President.

The management committee consists of the following:

President
Immediate Past-President
Convenor of the Conference Organising Committee
Treasurer
Editor of Proceedings

Vice-President
Secretary
Publications Manager
Website Manager
Newsletter Manager
All offices except the President and Immediate Past-President are open for election. Presently the committee meets three times a year, immediately before and after the Annual Conference and once in December to evaluate abstracts of papers submitted for presentation at the next conference. In addition to that it holds two or three telephone conference calls each year. To understand how the various officers contribute to the strategy and operations of the Society, speak to current and past committee members.

TO NOMINATE SOMEBODY FOR A POSITION ON NZSAP MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, PLEASE SEND THE FOLLOWING TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, KATE CROOKSTON: P.O 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

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL?

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.

NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD TRAVEL REPORT – Jenny Juengel

I want to thank the society for providing funding to support my attendance at the 17th International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR) in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada 29th of July through 2 August. This meeting, which is held once every 4 years, is a large meeting (around 900 participants) from around the world whose research is focused on reproduction in animals. The conference covers a wide range of production animals such as sheep, cows, deer, pigs as well as other species such as horses, fish, cats and dogs and wild animals. Presentations run from research examining fundamental mechanisms controlling reproduction to application of new methodologies “on-farm” or “in-clinic”. This year also included a presentation on using multimedia to help people, in either a formal teaching setting (i.e. university students) or members of the public with interest in a particular topic, to better understand and retain information concerning the subject of interest.

I presented a poster entitled “Evidence for a single gene affecting embryo/fetal survival in the Davisdale Flock”. The research presented in this poster was funded by the New Zealand Government and provides evidence supporting the presence of a putative single gene with a major effect in increasing embryo survival in the Davisdale flock. New Zealand has long been at the forefront of research into single genes with major effects on ovulation rate in sheep and this poster raises the potential for single genes to have major effects on other reproductive traits, keeping New Zealand at the forefront in this area of research.

I was also a moderator for a “poster station” for electronic posters at the meeting. Many of the posters were presented as e-posters and this provided a new experience for most if not all the meeting attendees. Each person with a poster presentation was allowed 3 minutes to present the poster and 2 minutes for questions. The meeting had 10 stations going at once over three different poster times with approximately 15 posters presented at each station for each time. There was quite a buzz during the poster session and I am certain that this is a format we will see more of in the future.
There were many exciting talks but I will highlight a few. One examined the potential role of environmental factors that may influence the development of the ovary on lifetime reproductive potential in dairy cattle. The basic premise of this talk was that insults to a dam during pregnancy, such as a lack of nutrition or a mastitis infection, could negatively affect her daughter's reproductive potential. Another talk examined the role of increased intrafollicular progesterone just before ovulation on fertility. Poster presentations included a few on new mutations in sheep genes that cause increased ovulation rates and identification of SNPs associated with poor uterine quality. A link to the review articles and abstracts from the conference is http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rda.2012.47.issue-s4/issuetoc

I also serve as a member of the Standing Committee for ICAR as one of two representatives from New Zealand. Two committee meetings were held during the meeting. A major outcome from these meetings is that Toulouse France has been chosen to host the 18th ICAR meeting in 2016. Typically, expressions of interest to organize a meeting are asked for 6 years before the meeting with the host site chosen at the meeting.

I was also invited to attend a meeting about the upcoming 9th International Ruminant Reproduction Symposium. This meeting is planned to be held August 26-30, 2014 in Obibiro, Hokkaido, Japan.

NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD TRAVEL REPORT  - Paul Cheng

It was a great trip to visit three universities and 11 farms in two countries within 2.5 weeks' time. I enjoyed very much to interacting with farmers, students and researchers, presented with them two talks and two posters. Meeting and discussion with farmers around Hotan city (northwest of China) provided me with a better understanding on the challenges and opportunities that the local farmers are facing. The hot and dry climate requires farmers seeking for drought tolerant plant species to cope with the feed shortage. The trip to Tarim University enhanced my current collaborative relationship with Associate. Prof. S.J. Zhang. The use of sweet sorghum silage as an alternative drought tolerant and high producing feed source, rather than the traditional maize silage has a great potential to improve the current ruminant production in the region. The 15th AAAP Animal Science Congress, Bangkok, Thailand (NZSAP is a member of AAAP) had about 1200 attendance which included scientists, livestock producers, development personnel and students from 38 countries. More than 700 research papers in all fields of animal production were presented. Grazing system has been highlighted and compared with mix ration systems. The competitiveness and challenges of NZ ruminant production (dairy production in particular) have been discussed. Meeting world leading scientists (E.R. Orskov, UK; E. Kebreab, USA) gives an opportunity to establish collaboration relationship. This is particularly helpful for young scientist to explore and meet like-minded scientists. I was invited by Assistant Prof. S. Kunhareang (Khon Kaen University, Thailand) to visit Khon Kaen University and present topic on New Zealand - culture exchange, education and scientific research. The post presentation discussion focused on establishing student exchange programme, as well as research collaborations in animal production related field. Finally I would like to thank NZSAP Animal Science Award for providing financial support and my advisors (Prof. Grant Edwards, Associate. Prof. Jon Hickford, Dr. Alastair Nicol and Dr. Richard Dewhurst) for their encouragement.
NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD TRAVEL REPORT - Grant Shackell, AgResearch

In November 2012, Grant Shackell from AgResearch Invermay attended the 15th Congress of the Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies (AAAP), supported by, and representing, the New Zealand Society of Animal Production.

At the end of 2011, the Congress venue (Thammasat University Campus in Bangkok) had been under floodwater up to 2 meters deep. Final exams and the start of the new semester were postponed 3 times and the University’s gymnasium, which was an evacuation centre early on, was itself subsequently evacuated. That this large Congress was held less than a year later is testament to an amazing clean-up operation.

The Congress brought together a significant gathering of researches and students from the South East Asian region and further afield. A total of 1420 delegates from 42 countries attended the Congress.

The presentations included 19 Plenary and invited papers along with 885 ‘other’ papers (344 oral presentations, 541 posters). With sessions on subjects as diverse as ‘Enhancing livestock organic farming’, ‘Nutrition and feed technology’, ‘Breeding and genetics’, ‘Feed science technology’ and ‘Management, welfare and environment concerns’, there was something of interest for every delegate. During one of eight concurrent symposia Mr Shackell gave an invited address on on ‘Animal selection, genetics and genomics for low carbon production’.

The Congress also featured a mid-Conference tour option. During the tour Mr Shackell visited an integrated smallholding of approximately 8 acres producing rice, vegetables, bamboo, pigs, eggs and chicken meat, ducks and fish. In addition, the farm had one working buffalo and another growing-on to eventually replace the working animal, which would then be eaten or sold.

A full social programme ensured that the delegates were always busy. The strong Thai love of music and dance ensured that the delegates were well immersed in local culture, including an opportunity to attend the annual Loy Kratong water festival.

In addition to the Conference, Mr Shackell attended the Meeting of the Editorial Board of the Asian-Australasian Journal of Animal Sciences on behalf of the New Zealand representative on the Board, immediately after the congress he visited the Ruminant Nutrition and Metabolism Centre, led Dr Metha Wanapat at Khon Kaen University in Northern Thailand, to view research facilities and speak to senior research students.

On his return to Bangkok, Mr Shackell presented a seminar and met with staff at the Thai Department of Livestock Development to discuss collaborations between the Department and New Zealand research institutions.

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New website for NZSAP!!!!

The New Zealand Society of Animal Production has recently revamped their website. Features of the new website include:

- The ability to update your membership details and pay your subscription online
- Access to the complete history of fully searchable NZSAP proceedings within SciQuest
- Details of the upcoming 2013 conference in Hamilton in July
- Online purchasing of occasional publications and past proceedings
- Up-to-date details of the NZSAP awards

The website address is www.nzsap.org.nz. Some parts of the website (such as access to the proceedings) are restricted to NZSAP members. To access these sections, you will need to log in. You should have received an email with details of how to do this by the 29th April 2013. If you haven’t received the email then we do not have your correct email address. Please contact the executive secretary (Kate Crookston; telephone (07) 823 9345; email nzsap.inc@gmail.com) to update your details.

MEMBERSHIP ______________________________________________________________

A warm welcome on behalf of NZSAP to our new members:

ERICA VAN REENEN
B+LNZ

NICOLA KELLAND
AgFirst

KEITH WOODFORD
Lincoln University

SUZANNE DOWLING
AgResearch

NICOLA LAW
Taupo

IAN MILLNER
Napier

RENE CORNER
Massey University

SHARYN PRICE
Oamaru

SHONA PRYOR
AgResearch

ROBIN WALKER
Reporoa

22 resignations were received and 13 members were removed from membership, leaving a Current Membership Total of 410.
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MEMBERSHIP

A warm welcome on behalf of NZSAP to our new members:

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An electronic version of this newsletter and other information on the Society is available at: [www.nzsap.org.nz](http://www.nzsap.org.nz)

Any contributions to the Newsletter should be forwarded to: Chris Logan, Lincoln University, AGLS Faculty, PO Box 84, Lincoln University 7647. Email: Chris.Logan@lincoln.ac.nz