

**NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF
ANIMAL PRODUCTION (INC)**

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

OCTOBER 2016

Who moved my cheese? This questioning sentence is not a prelude to a discussion regarding the “dairy crisis” ...although there could be some linkages drawn to what I am about to say... What I am referring to is the book by Spencer Johnson which uses a story about four characters in a maze, in the search for cheese, as a metaphor for dealing with change. The year 2016 certainly has been a year of change, already we have had Brexit and soon we can be expecting a new President of the USA. The New Zealand Society of Animal Production is particularly concerned with changes occurring in global agriculture and food production, within the primary industries of New Zealand, on farms, in the Universities and Crown Research Institutes and also with international research. For NZSAP to meet its objectives and to be relevant, viable, and useful we need to be aware of the changes that occur, we need to anticipate and monitor those changes and adapt to those changes as needed. I will be keeping this in mind over the term of my Presidency.

It is a pleasure to be the Society's President for the 2016-2017 period. The New Zealand Society of Animal Production has been very generous to me in my career. I have received both the Jubilee University Award and the Young Members Award so, it is wonderful to be able to provide service back to the Society by serving on the management committee and now, further engaging as President.

I am very lucky to have an energetic and enthusiastic management committee to work with. We welcome onto the committee **Kirsty Hammond** who is looking after the newsletter replacing **Racheal Bryant** who has stepped into the Vice President role. Chairing the conference committee we have **Cameron Craigie** who has mustered together a splendid group for organising the 2017 conference. Remaining in their roles from last year we have **Thomas Lopdell** as Treasurer, **Kathryn McRae** as Minutes Secretary, **René Corner-Thomas** as Publications Manager with the support of **Grant Edwards**, **Rebecca Hickson** as Website Manager, **Kate Crookston** as Executive Secretary, **Sam Peterson** as Proceedings Editor and our farmer reps **John Booker** and **Mark Illston**. **Chris Logan** now becomes Past President. I sincerely thank Chris for his excellent leadership of the Society and for providing some big boots to fill. The NZSAP is in good form (let's see if I can keep it that way!).

The NZSAP management committee has already had its first meeting and we are making a flying start. Items on the agenda for the coming months will include: a revision of the popular Occasional Publication No. 14 Pastures and Supplements for Grazing Animals, re-establishing ties with the Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies and making new ties with the British Society of Animal Science, revising the guidelines of NZSAP and considering a move of the Proceedings onto a journal.

We enjoyed a vibrant joint conference with the Australian Society of Animal Production (ASAP) in July. We thank the Australians, and in particular the President of ASAP, **Philip Hynd**,

for hosting us in Adelaide. A huge thanks to **Sam Peterson** for his tireless effort on the Proceedings. It is a demanding role every year and this year made slightly more difficult by having to work with the Australian programme. Thanks Sam for your perseverance!

The conference was where we were able to recognise and honour animal science colleagues through the NZSAP awards. **Dr Graham Barrell** was our Living Legend providing a talk during the conference with the intriguing title of *"Signals from inner space"* (the paper from this presentation is in the 2016 Proceedings). **Dr Julie Everett-Hincks** was awarded the Sir Arthur Ward Award for the successful application of her research to improve lamb survival. The Society's most esteemed award, the McMeekan Memorial Award was presented to **Dr Roger Purchas**. Roger was recognised for his substantial contribution to animal production through his research in the field of meat science and technology. There were six contenders for the Young Members Award with **Lisa Box** being the champion for her presentation and paper on *"Milk production and urinary nitrogen excretion of dairy cows grazing perennial ryegrass-white clover and pure plantain pastures"*.

Although the 2016 awards have just been presented, it is time to think about these awards for 2017. At the 2017 conference we will present the 75th Jubilee Technician Award for the first time – assuming we get a nomination! Also, please think about nominations for the McMeekan Memorial, Sir Arthur Ward and Life Member awards. We would like to receive nominations by **31st January 2017** so that the management committee can make decisions regarding the awardees at our February meeting. Likewise, applications for the NZSAP travel Awards are due on the **31st January 2017**. More details are on the website (<http://www.nzsap.org/>).

On the subject of the 2017 conference, please be aware that abstracts are due on the **30th of November**. Time to get writing! We are tentatively looking at holding the conference in Rotorua from the **28th-30th June 2017**. However, this is not confirmed so, please keep checking the NZSAP website for updates (<http://www.nzsap.org/>).

Finally, I would like to make you aware of the **International Day of Rural Women** occurring on the **15th of October**. The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15th October 2008. Information on the United Nations website states: "Rural women, the majority of whom depend on natural resources and agriculture for their livelihoods, make up over a quarter of the total world population. In developing countries, rural women represent approximately 43 per cent of the agricultural labour force, and produce, process and prepare much of the food available, thereby giving them primary responsibility for food security. Bearing in mind that 76 per cent of the extreme poor live in rural areas, ensuring rural women's access to productive agricultural resources contributes to decreasing world hunger and poverty". For the 15th of October I encourage you to do a good deed for a rural woman that you know – take them out for coffee, cook them some muffins, feed the calves for them, take the kids off their hands for a couple hours or simply ring them up to say hello. Alternatively, find out about the Rural Women NZ or Dairy Women's Network activities occurring in your area and find out if there is a way you can offer support.

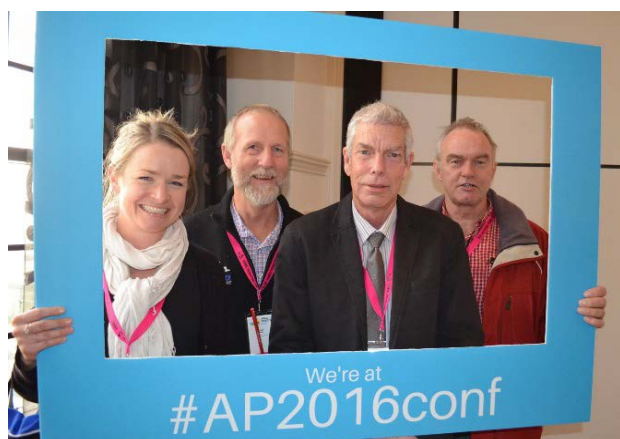
Nicola Schreurs
NZSAP President

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ASAP/NZSAP 2016 JOINT CONFERENCE

An excellent joint ASAP/NZSAP conference was held in Glenelg, Adelaide (4-7 July). A hearty contingent of NZSAP members was present ensuring a sufficiently kiwi-esque atmosphere. Attendees enjoyed catching up with Australian counterparts and the conference had a lively atmosphere. Temple Gradin was the keynote speaker and her insights into animal welfare were well received. Some photos from the conference below:



Left: Roger Purchas, the McMeekan Memorial Award recipient for 2016, and Nicola Schreurs at the Animal Production 2016 conference awards dinner. **Right:** Julie Everett-Hincks receiving the Sir Arthur Ward Award from Rebecca Hickson.



Left: NZSAP members at Animal Production 2016 (from L to R) Jen Corkran, Hugh Blair, Chris Logan and Sam Peterson. **Right:** René Corner-Thomas and Paul Kenyon enjoying the conference dinner.



Left: Temple Gradin, Keynote speaker at Animal Production 2016. **Right:** NZSAP Management Committee of 2015-2016 in attendance at the conference (absent: Mark Illston and Kate Crookston).

REMINDERS

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 2017 NZSAP CONFERENCE

DUE: **30TH NOVEMBER 2016**

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

NOMINATIONS FOR NZSAP AWARDS

DUE: **31ST JANUARY 2017**

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

APPLICATIONS FOR NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE TRAVEL AWARDS

DUE: **31ST JANUARY 2017**

Application details can be found here:

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

2017 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION \$85

PLEASE HAVE THIS PAID BY: **31ST MARCH 2017**

Keep an eye out in December 2016 for an email notification that subscriptions are due for payment. Prompt payment is appreciated.

NZSAP CONFERENCE 2017

Tentative arrangements for the 2017 NZSAP conference have been set in place. It is very likely that the 2017 NZSAP conference will be held at The Distinction Hotel in **Rotorua** from **28th-30th June 2017**.

Please put this date into your calendars and diaries and start planning for a conference in Rotorua. For confirmation of conference details and to keep up-to-date on conference plans visit the NZSAP conference website page: <http://www.nzsap.org/content/conference>

To submit a paper to the NZSAP proceedings an abstract must first be submitted no later than **Wednesday 30th November 2016**. 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 is now open access and can be accessed using the following link: www.nzsap.org/proceedings

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS 2016-2017

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 2017 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 the New Zealand Society of Animal Production.

To nominate somebody for an award, 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

Travel Report for Animal Science Award

Laura Deeming, AgResearch

The NZSAP Travel Award enabled me to attend the Animal Production 2016 Conference in Adelaide. This gave me the opportunity to present my work on the variability in growth rates of goat kids on 16 New Zealand dairy goat farms. These are preliminary findings from a large on-going study assessing the impacts of kid rearing practices on New Zealand dairy goat farms. This is the largest data set of goats from birth, so it was an excellent opportunity to present some of the findings.

My PhD is focusing on animal welfare in New Zealand dairy goats. With particular focus on investigating the prevalence of lameness in New Zealand dairy goats and how management interventions can help in its prevention. I was therefore very excited to attend the conference as it had such a strong emphasis on animal welfare. I thoroughly enjoyed a number of the talks in this area and believe that I learnt a lot from the experience. I particularly found the session looking at the major welfare issues facing the animal industries in Australia thought-provoking. It is reassuring to know that welfare issues are being recognised and that so much research is being done in this area.

One of the highlights of the conference for me was the opportunity to see Temple Grandin present. Her talk on animal handling and welfare was inspiring. During the networking hour I was also able to meet her and discuss some of the work I am doing in dairy goat welfare.

As a PhD student myself it was great the conference had such a focus on students. The Animal Production conference is the first conference I have attended as part of my PhD. I believe it was an invaluable experience. It gave me the opportunity to meet other students as well as scientists and industry professionals which may facilitate valuable collaborations in the future.

I would like to thank the New Zealand Society of Animal Production for the financial support that enabled me to attend the conference.

Rhiannon Handcock, Massey University

I recently travelled to the joint ASAP and NZSAP conference in Glenelg, Adelaide, with the assistance of the NZSAP Animal Science Award grant. I am a first year PhD student at Massey University studying the effect of growth patterns and live weight of dairy heifers on milk production and fertility. At this conference I presented a paper titled "More dairy heifers are achieving liveweight targets" that I wrote whilst working as an intern at Livestock Improvement Corporation.

I competed in the Young Members Award and was the first speaker for the session which made me pretty nervous, but once I got up there I was fine. Being the first speaker also meant that as soon as I was done speaking I could relax and enjoy the other Young Members' presentations. I was asked some challenging questions and I felt like I answered them really well. Some of the questions also related to my PhD which gave me new ideas to think about and potentially incorporate. This year all of the six Young Members finalists were female, which is awesome for women in science and exciting to be a part of.

Overall, attending the joint NZSAP and ASAP conference was a fantastic experience for a young scientist like myself. I am very grateful to have been given the opportunity to present and network with scientists from both New Zealand and Australia and would like to thank the NZSAP for the financial assistance provided to have made this possible.

Melissa Hempstead, AgResearch

After being awarded an Animal Science Award by the New Zealand Society of Animal Production, I was able to attend the Animal Production Conference in Adelaide, July 2016. Without having received funding from the Society, it would have been very difficult for me to attend.

I presented my research on “Assessing physiological parameters to evaluate the efficacy of pain mitigation strategies that may reduce pain associated with cautery disbudding in goat kids”. I was able to share the findings of my research and discuss the implications of my work with other animal scientists. Particularly, the question and answer session was beneficial as topics raised in the discussion I have investigated further.

I thoroughly enjoyed Temple Grandin’s talk on animal handling and welfare where she emphasised ‘let’s not make bad become normal’. I was very happy that she attended the concurrent session on welfare issues and measurement that I was part of. Furthermore, I was able to meet Professor Grandin and discuss some aspects of my work on goats. It was amazing to be a part of a conference focussed on animal welfare as I believe this is an area of animal production that can always be improved and that new knowledge should be shared and readily available to ultimately improve farm animal welfare. As this was my first talk, I have gained valuable experience and improved my presentation skills for a scientific audience. Attending the conference provided a great platform for meeting other delegates and building meaningful relationships for future collaboration.

I am so grateful to the New Zealand Society of Animal Production for the financial support provided to be able to attend the Animal Production Conference.

Dr David Scobie, AgResearch

‘Welfare, wool, women and where it began’

I grew up on a sheep station in outback Australia, and later a sheep, beef and goat farm in the south east of South Australia. I studied Agricultural Science as an undergraduate at Adelaide University and did my PhD on the effects of stress hormones on wool at the Waite Institute with Professor Phil Hynd. Phil was the organiser of the joint conference in Adelaide in July 2016, and it was a real homecoming for me to present papers on sheep, back where it began. Although at their conference both societies previously had whole sessions on wool, there were only two science presentations with wool in the title and neither of those were about wool itself! Times change. Phil Hynd also asked me to chair a session on “Major welfare issues facing the animal industries in Australia” and instructed me “... you will have to make it lively...” and I hope I did not disappoint in this respect. We had a vote at the end of each presentation, and by and large the audience, dominated by scientists, considered that each industry had made good progress on welfare issues.

Of particular interest to me was the fact that the six young members in the NZSAP competition, and the first, second, third place and people’s choice winners of the ASAP student presentations were all female. Julie Everett Hincks became the first female recipient

of a well-deserved Sir Arthur Ward Award, and the NZSAP committee elected at the AGM was largely feminine. This is a strong sea-change from when I gave my Presidential address to NZSAP in 2006.

I would sincerely like to thank the New Zealand Society of Animal Production for funding my trip.

Nick Sneddon, Massey University

With the help of the NZSAP travel fund I was able to travel to Adelaide for the 2016 Joint conference of the New Zealand and Australian Societies of Animal Production and present my conference paper titled "Supply curves for yields of dairy products from first-lactation Holstein Friesian, Jersey and Holstein Friesian-Jersey crossbred cows accounting for seasonality of milk composition and production". This opportunity also allowed me to meet with scientists from across New Zealand and Australia. Highlights of the conference for me were the talks by Temple Grandin, Graham Barrell, Tim Doran, the NZSAP young members session and the conference dinner.

I would like to thank NZSAP for the support and opportunity to attend this conference and present my research to the society and fellow scientists from across New Zealand and Australia.

NEW MEMBERS

The NZSAP would like to welcome our new members:

Rueben Brown	Jemma Holden	Mr Juan Felipe Martinez Rocha
Paul Corboy	Chris Houston	Charlotte Short
Dr Diane Fraser	Mr Jim Inglis	Mr John Tacon
Miss Elodie Ganche	Hannah Mowat	Guy Trafford
Dr Kirsty Hammond	Emma Pettigrew	Mrs Harriet Wishart

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