

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

PRESIDENT'S PIECE _____ OCTOBER 2018

It seems a long time since the latest NZSAP conference at Lincoln in July, when there was positive feedback from the membership to increase engagement with farmers. The 2019 conference committee have been hard at work looking at our options here and we are pleased to announce we'll be including a "farmer day" in the 2019 conference in Palmerston North. Abstract submissions are now open, so it's time to start thinking about what research you'd like to put in front of a farmer audience. There's nothing like presenting to farmers to learn the real value and sticking points of your new idea!

I'd like to thank Chris Logan and his team of organisers of the 2018 conference. I especially enjoyed the field trip and the opportunity to hang out at the Hanmer hot pools, where I had the opportunity to talk at length with various members of the society I hadn't previously had much to do with – a fantastic networking opportunity! There were some great talks, and of course, congratulations to the award winners.

Another major achievement for the Society in 2018 has been the publication of the first issue of the NZ Journal of Animal Science and Production. Congratulations to our Editor Sam Peterson and his trusty assistant Emma Pettigrew for their hard work in making it happen.

A key feature of the 2018 conference, and hopefully again in 2019, is the number of students in attendance. It is wonderful to see so many young people engaged in animal science and agriculture, and looking to make a positive contribution to their respective industries. The support and encouragement of young scientists within our society was one of the first things I noticed when I attended my first conference some years ago as a PhD student, and it's something that I hope will continue for many years to come. In fact, we may have some of our youngest ever members this year, with three members of the management committee welcoming babies recently or in the near future.

Finally, probably the biggest change at the Society this year has been the handover of the Executive Secretary role from Kate Crookston to Pauline Penketh. Those of you with Massey connections will remember Pauline from her role in the College of Sciences, and no doubt the rest of you will get to know her over the coming years. On behalf of the society, I'd like to make a huge thank you to Kate for her commitment and contribution to the Society over the past 6 years, and wish her the very best for her new challenges.

Rebecca Hickson
NZSAP President

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NZSAP 2018 CONFERENCE

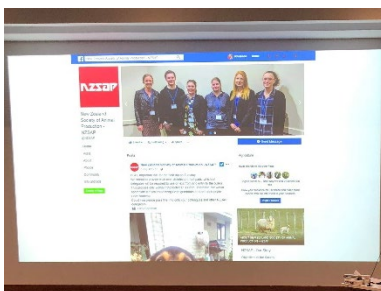
The 2018 NZSAP Conference was held at Lincoln University (9 to 12th July). Attendees enjoyed a range of presentations, including the Living Legend Address by Andrew Sykes, and the Keynote Address by Dr Fred Provenza. Attendees visited North Canterbury earthquake affected properties and spent a night enjoying Hanmer Springs.



Left: NZSAP President Rebecca Hickson and McMeekan Award winner Prof Nicolas Lopez-Villalobos. **Middle:** Past President Racheal Bryant and Young Members Award winner Megan Scholtens. **Right:** Honorary Life Member Dr Ian Brookes; Young Members Award winner Megan Scholtens, Sir Arthur Ward Award winner LIC representative Bevin Harris and McMeekan Award winner Prof Nicolas Lopez-Villalobos



Left: Maurice McDonald, Ian Brookes, Alistair Nicol **Middle:** Young Member Finalists Anita Fleming, Emma Pettigrew and Megan Scholtens. **Right:** Quiz Night winners Tom Maxwell, Lucy Burrows, Anita Fleming and Camilla Gardiner



Left: The newly formed NZSAP Facebook page. **Middle:** Field trippers looking at a quake-damaged historic woolshed **Right:** an historic woolshed undergoing earthquake repairs

REMINDERS

VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR THE 2019 NZSAP CONFERENCE

DUE: **3 PM FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2018**

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

NOMINATIONS FOR NZSAP AWARDS

DUE: **31ST JANUARY 2019**

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

APPLICATIONS FOR NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE TRAVEL AWARDS

DUE: **31ST JANUARY 2019**

Application details can be found here:

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

2019 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION \$95

PLEASE HAVE THIS PAID BY: **31ST MARCH 2019**

Keep an eye out in December 2018 for an email notification that subscriptions are due for payment. Prompt payment is appreciated.

NZSAP CONFERENCE 2019

The 2019 New Zealand Society of Animal Conference will be held in Palmerston North, Manawatu from the **2nd to 4th July 2019**.

The Manawatu area hosts a large number of sheep and cattle in New Zealand and is home to a large number of agricultural scientists located at both Massey University, AgResearch Grasslands and Fonterra.

The conference will include a farmer-day which will have a focus on presenting research and science concepts to both sheep and beef and dairy farmers with a practical approach. This will be a great opportunity to bring together farmers and scientists and enable great discussion.

Please put this date into your calendars and diaries and start planning for a conference in Palmerston North. 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>.

For any further enquiries about the conference, please email Lydia Cranston (L.Cranston@massey.ac.nz).

ABSTRACT FORMS NOW OPEN FOR 2019 NZSAP CONFERENCE

Abstracts for the 2019 conference will take two forms:

- 1) **Traditional scientific papers** to be published in the peer-reviewed New Zealand Journal of Animal Science and Production, or,
- 2) **Contract presentations** for the farmer day which may consist of a presentation supported by a presentation summary published in the supplementary material.

Please indicate on the abstract submission form, whether your submission is intended for the farmer day, and if so, whether you would prefer to produce a full paper for peer review, or a non-peer-reviewed presentation summary.

To submit a paper to the NZSAP proceedings an abstract must first be submitted no later than **3 PM Friday 7th December 2018**. 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

NZSAP FACEBOOK PAGE

Don't forget to like and share our page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NZSAP/>

NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS 2019

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 2019 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:

P.O Box 955, Cambridge 3450, NEW ZEALAND. Email: nzsap.inc@gmail.com

- Award
- Name of Nominee and citation detailing why the nominee is worthy of the award
- Proposer (Print name) and Proposer's signature
- Seconder (Print name) and signature of Seconder
- Date

TRAVEL AWARD REPORTS ---

Travel Reports for Animal Science Award

Isabel Tait, PhD Candidate, Massey University

I attended the 78th New Zealand Society of Animal Production conference held at Lincoln University from 9-12th July. The conference occurs annually where NZ scientists and farmers come together to discuss current issues and research. This year the topics included nutrition, genetics and breeding, milk production, health and welfare, reproduction and rearing, growth and development and a look into the environmental side of animal production. I presented a paper titled 'Genetic parameters of body condition score in New Zealand merino ewes'. This paper was in collaboration with the NZ Merino Company looking at the heritability of body condition score (BCS) and genetic correlations between BCS and lamb growth and wool production traits.

The four-day conference included a trip to visit North Canterbury earthquake affected properties and families. This was really eye opening to hear from the people affected and see some of the damage. Some family's farms were physically affected, while others were emotionally affected, suddenly being isolated from nearby towns. The conference sessions were well split up and an amazing keynote speaker, Fred Provenza, spoke on 'How food systems undermine choice to the detriment of herbivores and humans', which was a very engaging and informative talk. I enjoyed the environmental session as it provided a different

perspective on animal production. It was great to catch up with the other animal scientists from around the country, it is very inspirational talking with others that share the passion for animal science.

I would like to thank the NZSAP for the financial assistance to attend the conference, it was a good opportunity to publish some of my research and hear from others in similar areas of work.

NEW MEMBERS

The NZSAP would like to welcome our new members:

Brigette Solomon	Margaret Bale	Suzanne Young
James Palmer	Abigail Jones	

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Any contributions to the Newsletter should be forwarded to: Kirsty Hammond, AgResearch, Grasslands Research Centre, Tennent Drive, Private Bag 11008, Palmerston North 4442.
Email: Kirsty.Hammond@agresearch.co.nz