

President 1963/64  
 Delegate representing the Society at the first meeting of the World Association of Animal Production in Rome.

He has been a regular contributor to the Proceedings since he first became a member at the second conference of the Society. I believe that he shares with Sir Arthur Ward the distinction of being

the only members who have so far held the four offices of Secretary-Treasurer, Editor, Vice-President and President of the Society.

This shows the calibre of the man who is most deservedly nominated for Life Membership of the Society.

A. L. Rae

## THE SIR ARTHUR WARD AWARD 1982

M. E. SMITH M.Agr.Sc., Dip. Wool and Wool Classing

W. D. SHORT Dip. Wool and Wool Classing

The second presentation of this award recognises the roles played by Malcolm Smith (Farm Advisory Officer, Animal Husbandry, Hamilton) and Bill Short (Manager, Markets Limited, Waerenga) in the application of technology towards the design and adoption of a highly successful system of grazing management for North Island hill country farming.

Malcolm was born and lived on a dairy farm in Dannevirke. He entered Massey as a Rural Field Cadet in 1960, obtaining his B.Agr.Sc. in 1965; Diploma in Wool and Wool Classing in 1966 and his M.Agr.Sc. (Hons) in Farm Management in 1968. His masterate was extension-oriented looking at breeding and wool practices of North Island sheep farmers. He joined E. A. Clarke in 1967 at Ruakura on the development of the National Flock Recording Scheme, and M.A.F. Advisory Services Division in 1969, becoming involved mainly in demonstration farms and the development of Beefplan. During 1972/3 he refined his ideas for grazing management, based on the scientific principles of grass growth and in 1974 started testing them on several discussion groups. He has always been very supportive of research at both Ruakura and Whatawhata.

Bill was born and educated in New Plymouth and spent his youth on the family's town supply dairy farm. He too attended Massey and in 1942 received a one-year Diploma. Bill has been Manager of Markets Ltd for 21 years. Prior to this he was involved in managing several other sheep enterprises. Bill has always had a close contact with advisers and was also very supportive of research, for example co-operating with the late Ken Cottier and John Dobbie in lamb drenching trials. Bill has always keenly supported field days and farm visits, always making his farm available and clearly discussing the total management of the enterprise. Bill is a humble fellow, who regards farming as a great challenge. He is widely read, especially in scientific literature and will intensively question concepts and principles and any expert who sets foot on the property. Malcolm especially found this out in the formative stages of

the system. Bill was the first to respond to the challenge early in 1974 and since then has become a focal point for demonstration, discussion and further refinement of the system.

Later during 1974 wider publicity was given to the system at various field days—Whatawhata in August and Hamilton in November. Adoption rate by farmers and advisers was high, especially after the Hamilton meeting where something like 45 out of 60 attending attempted to put the system into practice. Soon after this came the development of demonstration farms with selected farmers in other regions and then associated field days became widely supported. The success of the system was outstanding and immediate. Bill's own production figures serve to illustrate this. Since adoption the carrying capacity has almost doubled, now reaching an astounding 18 stock equivalents per hectare; lambing percentage has increased from around 85 to around 100 percent and fleece weights have increased by almost a kilogram.

The system has over the years received wide publicity in the first "Good Farming" television programme, newspaper articles and papers presented to the N.Z. Grassland Association Conference (1975), Ruakura Farmers' Conference (1976), Lincoln College Farmers' Conference (1978) and the N.Z. Society of Animal Production Conference (1980). The widespread adoption of the technology is obvious to those travelling around the North Island where large mobs of sheep are becoming a common sight. Recognition of its outstanding success has led partly to the system being used, with refinements, as the basis for the "Control Grazing Systems" extension programme currently advocated by the Advisory Services Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The scheme has received criticism because some actions were not supported by research. However data produced in recent years have been more than useful in further developing the ability to describe the management actions. For whatever reason, the system works.