



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

PRESIDENT'S PIECE _____ **OCTOBER 2022**

It is the time of year for renewal, Spring, and for the first time in three years we will have the opportunity to meet each other face to face. I welcome you all to attend the conference in Invercargill. This is being held in conjunction with the New Zealand Grasslands Association, this is the first conjoined conference we have attempted with NZGA so we are hoping it will go well. It looks like we have managed to stabilise some of our membership numbers, which has been a great turn around. Going into the future we will be investigating ways to increase the appeal of the society as well as making it easier to become a member (and to check your membership status).

We will also be publishing our first publication only journal, which, whilst only containing a small number of papers, shows that we still have an appeal to New Zealand animal scientists. This journal is the key function of the society, it has been able to weather covid's storm stopping conferences. I appeal to our members to put abstracts in for the next edition, we will be calling for abstracts in December this year. The quality of our publication and our societies reputation are all pinned to the quality and quantity of the articles submitted to the journal. It will be a challenging time for our society as we move to a more digital, high paced world of publications. It has been a steep learning curve for many of us on the committee and as always, I am happy to hear from our members, whether it's with positive or negative feedback. We need to know how you feel about our society, so we make sure we provide the greatest value possible.

Nick Sneddon

NZSAP President

REMINDERS _____

NOMINATIONS FOR NZSAP AWARDS

DUE: 31ST JANUARY 2023

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

APPLICATIONS FOR NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE TRAVEL AWARDS

DUE: 31ST JANUARY 2023

Application details can be found here:

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

2023 NZSAP MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION

Keep an eye out in December 2022 for an email notification that subscriptions are due for payment. Prompt payment is appreciated.

NZSAP MEMEBRSHIP FEES 2023

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

NZSAP CONFERENCE 2022

Join us at our first conjoint conference with both the New Zealand Grassland Association (NZGA) and Agronomy Society in INVERCARGILL.

Registrations are still open through NZGA website <https://www.grassland.org.nz/index.php>

When: 15-17 November 2022

Where: Ascot Park Hotel, Invercargill

Highlights of the conference will include a field tour to the Southern Dairy Hub, a visit to a working flax museum and a social gathering at the Bill Richardson Transport Museum.

Masks and RAT tests

Although NZ currently has no restrictions evidence has shown these large events have the potential to be super spreaders, especially as a high number of people may be asymptomatic with Covid. We request that all attendees perform a RAT test before attending the conference. Free RAT test kits are available at many pharmacies (order via Covid App). We will have a limited number available. If you are unwell, please stay at home.

In order to protect the health of all attendees we strongly recommend masks are worn when in the auditoriums.

NZSAP AWARD WINNERS

2021 University Jubilee Awards

Massey University – Bella Latimer

Lincoln University – Abbey Dowd

These awards are made each year to senior students at Massey and Lincoln Universities for academic achievement in animal production and will be to students nominated by the appropriate Heads of Department at each university and will have the value of \$250 plus a certificate.

Nominations will normally be made to the Society in December of each year.

2021 Travel Awards

Franziska Weik is a third-year PhD student at Massey University based remotely with AbacusBio Ltd. in Dunedin and working towards a degree in Animal Genetics. Her studies are focused on beef genetics, examining beef breeding cow performance on commercial New Zealand hill country stations. Franziska was successful with her application for a Society Travel award and her report of the conference she attended follows:

I was awarded the NZSAP Travel Award to travel to the 12th World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP) in July 2022 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. I attended the conference to present my research paper titled 'Genetic parameters for mature cow body condition scores and fat and muscle traits in finishing beef cattle' as part of my PhD.

Conference Summary –WCGALP is an international conference held every four years with researchers and professionals involved in genetic improvement of livestock. The WCGALP 2022 was held in Rotterdam from 3–8 July and for the first time was offered as a fully hybrid conference – with a total of 1,500 delegates from 70 countries joining in person and live via online streaming. The scientific program of this year's conference covered a range of talks across a total of 65 sessions focussing on topics such as challenges of animal breeding, large-scale phenotyping of individual animals, the use of whole genome sequencing and genomic prediction, as well as the contribution of genetics to societal challenges such as climate change and/or animal welfare. Invited speakers presented every morning in the plenary sessions followed by abstract presentations and poster pitches throughout the day.

Relevance for my own research/professional development –The topic of my PhD is centred around the performance of beef breeding cows on commercial New Zealand hill country farms. Compared to dairy, the beef industry is a much smaller research area in New Zealand but also internationally. This is despite that beef industry is a relevant contributor to the overall structure of the farming system and essential for whole-farm profitability. Thus, conferences such as WCGALP are highly relevant to exchange knowledge with experts in the field within New Zealand and with other countries worldwide; to look beyond what has been done nationally and to examine to what extent alternative approaches may be applied to the New Zealand industry and/or research. The opportunity to present part of my PhD research in front of an international audience was an invaluable way to receive feedback on my own work, resulting in some interesting discussions/conversations and has highlighted the importance of the research on a global scale.

I am very grateful and would like to thank NZSAP for the financial assistance and the opportunity to attend my first international conference, it has been an invaluable experience!

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Alex Caulton is a PhD student and Research Associate with AgResearch Ltd, Mosgiel and she applied for and was successful in being granted an NZSAP Animal Science Travel Award to also attend the World Congress on Genetics Applied to Livestock Production (WCGALP) held at Rotterdam, The Netherlands in July 2022.

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Laura Deeming from AgResearch was successful in her Animal Science award application. The grant she received will be used to cover flights and accommodation to the joint 2022

Grasslands/NZSAP conference in November in Invercargill.

Successful applicants are required to submit a press release and a travel report detailing the project or conference for which the funds were used, and this will be published in due course.

INVITATION TO CONTRIBUTE

The following has been received from IntechOpen who advise they are the world's leading publisher of Open Access books – built by scientists for scientists

Rijeka: Janeza Trdine 9, 51000 Rijeka, Croatia

London: 5 Princes Gate Court, London, SW7 2QJ, UK

+44 20 8089 5702

The Society as an organisation will not be contributing but circulate this invitation for members to do so if they wish.

Due to your involvement in the field, IntechOpen invites you to contribute a chapter to "Contemporary Challenges in Postnatal Care," an Open Access book edited by Dr. Jennifer Ayton.

Work with an internationally recognised peer group and gain increased visibility for your published work.

Please visit the book project page to register your interest at:

https://mts.intechopen.com/welcome?books_hash=ee4625c01cf73796b63771221c130c2e&call_email=nzsap.inc@gmail.com&books_id=12189&src=N-F-2&r=

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 2023 ---

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 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:

C/- School of Agriculture and Environment, Massey University, Private Bag 11222, Palmerston North 4442 Email: nzsap.inc@gmail.com

- Position
- Name of Nominee (Printed) and signature of Nominee
- Proposer (Print name) and Proposer's signature
- Secunder (Print name) and signature of Secunder
- Date

NEW MEMBERS

The NZSAP would like to welcome our new members:

Melikhaya Nozihamba

Melissa Newstead

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Any contributions to the Newsletter should be forwarded to: **Omar Al-Marashdeh**, SS building, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Lincoln University, Lincoln 7647 Email: Omar.Al-Marashdeh@lincoln.ac.nz