

Greetings

Having held this office for one year I have learned that when people say “a steep learning curve” they really mean “I made some massive mistakes” and I will try to do better in my second term as Editor of this Newsletter.

I work on sheep industry problems. The wool industry, fuelled by the media, has been trying to thrash itself to death by internal conflict of recent years and strangely each person in the industry believes it is someone else's fault. I know nothing about the dairy industry. (That will not prevent me from making uninformed observations!) So, I naively sat in on a panel discussion on dairy breeding objectives at the conference. One producer claimed the lack of progress was due to artificial breeding companies, while another claimed it was a lack of good plant breeding to keep up with his cows. The artificial breeding guy seemed to think that the people who buy the milk (in big volumes) just want commodity milk and could not care less what protein variants are in it. The research bloke said there was no diversity in the supply chain because processors can't afford to wash up between two trucks of this and one of that, despite the fact that one of the protein variants chokes up your pipes. Processors were not there, presumably because they were too busy cleaning their pipes and trying to increase the range of products they make from one bog standard milk stream. At that time I thought to myself, this will make another great controversy for the Newsletter, but since then I reckon the main difference between milk and wool (aside from fluidity) is that one is making heaps of money and the other is not. If the tables turn, will they be at each other's throats? Mark Fishers address as President gives us an alternative to explore for the future: “Try to improve the other persons argument before refuting it”. In other words take the oppositions side and give your ideas a good seeing too before dismissing their argument. Now as I said I can't do that for dairying, but don't get me started on wool!

The 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference was held at Massey University in June and was attended by 205 registrants. Once again good chairmanship drove a speedy AGM on Monday evening. John Smith, admitted to us that one of the investments he made on behalf of the Society had lost a bit of capital. This from a man who has earned tens of thousands for the Society every year since taking on the voluntary position. On behalf of the rest of the Society, don't sweat it John, high returns carry higher risks. The dinner followed at the Awapuni racecourse with the ceremony and celebration of the awards, but misfortune often follows good fortune. When travelling out of the grounds of the racecourse after receiving his life membership, a screw came loose on Neil Clarkes car, then a cover plate lodged under the “toothed” fan belt and caused the fan belt to “jump a couple of notches”. The car spent the night on the roadside and a kindly dinner goer took Neil and Ainslie back to their motel!

Scobie

*The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily those of the NZSAP.*

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

---

The Palmerston North conference committee, led by Annette Litherland, deserve our thanks and congratulations for organising a comprehensive and successful meeting. I have always viewed the Annual Conference as an extremely valuable opportunity for animal scientists to catch up with each other and on research in New Zealand. It serves not only to recognise the contributions of senior members, but also as a training ground for many of our up and coming scientists to cut their teeth in the vortex of nerves known as the Young Members Competition.

This year Marc Ulyatt's contribution to national and international ruminant nutrition and the scientific community and Neil Clarke's work on genetics of the sheep were deservedly recognised with Life Membership to the Society. Collectively the work of these two Life Members must generate enormous wealth for New Zealand. The world-leading research of Dave Wells was acknowledged with the McMeekan Award, and the impact of Paul Muir's applied agricultural research was credited with the Sir Arthur Ward Award. These awards all represent years of dedication and scientific excellence by the recipients. The Young Members Award, which showcases the up and coming crop of world-beaters, was hotly contested this year and was won by Jane Kay. Following the NZSAP conference, Jane went on to present at the American Dairy Science Conference in Quebec with the aid of a NZSAP Travel Award.

This, to me, is what this Society is all about. It has a history of achievement, which, as a young person entering the animal science field, I was proud to be part of, and to aspire to. My aim for my term as President of this Society is to maintain this strong tradition. A challenge for those of you mentoring young animal science researchers is to encourage them to participate in the Society's conference, so please **don't forget to get those Young members signed up**. An added incentive is that next years conference is in Queenstown!

Finally on behalf of the Society, I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Management Committee for their work last year, and welcome Paul Charteris to the role of website manager.

*Catherine Morrow*

## A PARTING SHOT FROM THE PARTING PAST-PRESIDENT

---

I wouldn't dare to give advice to the incoming NZSAP Management Committee. Fortunately, Andy Bray did just that last year and I recommend that you read his comments for a list of tasks which need attention. I can say, like Andy and others before him, that I enjoyed the interaction with other members of the management committee and I offer them my best wishes – and thanks.

In the meantime, the issues I raised in the Presidential Address last year just keep rolling along. Recently we have learned about Sir Peter Elworthy and his list of supporters for an anti-GE (i.e 'let's extend the moratorium')/pro-organics pressure group. We also heard from Peter Hodgson, and an even longer list of pre-eminent New Zealanders supporting the opposite viewpoint. Hopefully, this will generate healthy debate among animal production people and foster interest in the hustings for the general election.

The media remain true to form. Major daily newspapers reported from the animal welfare conference in Hamilton that sheep can distinguish humans from a cardboard box, but failed to mention the eloquent address of Kevin Stafford in which he lamented the desire of organic farming protagonists to turn away from the half century of scientific progress that has largely eliminated some of the more miserable diseases of livestock. To me, this smacks of trivialising sound behavioural science on the one hand and avoiding comment that might blunt current fashion on the other.

I won't go on, even though there is plenty of material to choose from. Just to say that although Andy advised you, wisely, to keep away from politics, it seems to me that this may be hard to achieve.

*Cheers*  
*Graham Barrell*

## AWARDS RECIPIENTS 2001

---

### McMEEKAN MEMORIAL AWARD:

The McMeekan Memorial Award for 2001 was presented to **Dr David Wells**, who leads a research programme at Ruakura which is recognised internationally for setting the “gold standard” for cloning livestock from somatic cells. These cells have already differentiated into specific tissue types and are the most challenging to reprogramme to produce an embryo. To put David’s success in context, he expects about 15% of embryos produced through cloning to result in live, healthy calves, a figure some two to three fold better than overseas research and commercial laboratories.

His achievements in this competitive research area. include: Second in the world of animals to report successful cloning of sheep, and third to produce cattle using cells cultured from embryo cell lines. Second in the world, by a mere 6 weeks, to report the birth of calves produced by cloning using cells derived from adult animals. Production of 19 calves from cells derived from the ovarian follicles of an adult Friesian cow, the largest single group of cloned animals. Over 80 cloned offspring have been produced at Ruakura by David’s research team including those from Lady, the last surviving Enderby Island cow. David has published 14 papers in scientific journals in the last 5 years. He was senior author of 10 of these. He also published a further 38 articles ranging from presentations at scientific conferences to talks to industry groups, students, welfare, ethics and ERMA meetings. He is inventor on a novel nuclear transfer technology patent.

David is by nature a quiet and unassuming person but he has learned over the years to very effectively argue the case for cloning and transgenics in the face of considerable public debate and scrutiny and always presents his results fairly and knowledgeably. His international standing results in frequent invitations to present to the international science community. David however is also equally comfortable speaking to audiences on the commercial applications of the technologies.

I asked David about his early education to see if I could glean where his research aptitude came from. His father was a builder turned poultry farmer and he went to Lincoln Secondary School and then completed a B.Agr.Sc. at Lincoln University. Perhaps his aptitude came from tossing up whether to do agriculture or engineering at University and ending up doing both via genetic engineering!! He undertook his PhD in Edinburgh with Ian Wilmut, creator of Dolly, the first animal produced by cloning from somatic cells. This experience was invaluable and gave David an excellent base on which to develop his career in the area of cloning.

In conclusion, cloning technology has some way to go before it will be widely used in the animal breeding and biotechnology industries. However, the best results in the world are being achieved in New Zealand by David and his team. It is appropriate that David’s skill, enthusiasm and dedication be recognised and rewarded with the McMeekan Award

*Robin Tervit*

### INNOVATION AWARD

This Award recognises the conference paper representing the greatest innovation in science and/or technology for the advancement of animal production. This year the Award is presented to David Scobie and Denis O’Connell for their contribution: *Gentic reduction of tail length in New Zealand sheep*. The work suggested that it will be relatively straightforward to produce genetically docked tails by crossbreeding, selection and interbreeding. Further information is available in the *Proceedings of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production* Volume 62, pages 195-198.

*Mark Fisher and Paul Charteris*

### JUBILEE UNIVERSITY AWARDS:

Jubilee University awards are given to the leading third year undergraduate students in Animal Science during 2001 at the two Agricultural Universities.

Massey University Student Award:	Graham J. W. Thompson
Lincoln University Student Award:	Jessica M. Smith

## **TWO LIFE MEMBERS:**

In a research career spanning 40 years, **Marcus John Ulyatt**, M Agr Sc, PhD, DSc, FNZIAS, FRSNZ has been a key contributor to our understanding of the nutrition of ruminants. Marc has published over 130 scientific papers in the areas of control of rumen digestion, protein digestion and metabolism, pasture plant evaluation, research and decision support models in ruminant nutrition and methane emission from ruminants. Marc's contributions extended well beyond the bench, being heavily involved in developing and setting research directions for agriculture. He has served in many leading roles in DSIR and AgResearch. Marc served on the committee of our society and was President of both the Nutrition Society of NZ and NZ Institute of Agricultural Science, and a Council Member and Home Secretary of the Royal Society of NZ.

Marc's research career started in 1959 when as a graduate student at Massey University he took part in a series of collaborative experiments between Massey and DSIR known as the Pasture Strain Trials. It was shown that sheep grazed on white clover or ryegrasses exhibited very different growth rates.

In 1961 Marc undertook a PhD on the regulation of feed intake in ruminants. After graduation in 1964 he went to Scotland on a NZ National Research Fellowship to work with Sir Kenneth Blaxter on feed intake regulation, methane emission, quantitative measurement of digestion, and glucose metabolism.

Marc returned to NZ in 1967 to examine the cause of the large difference in live weight gain when sheep were fed perennial ryegrass or white clover. In collaboration with leading international scientists, he pioneered techniques to measure the flow of digesta through the stomachs, small and large intestines. These methods demonstrated that the superior live weight gain of sheep fed white clover was primarily due to a larger amount of protein entering the duodenum as a result of a higher feed intake and higher nitrogen content of white clover. The lower feed intake of ryegrass was caused by its slower rate of clearance from the rumen and its high leaf strength made it difficult to break down.

Marc also evaluated the metabolic cost of detoxifying ammonia that result from protein breakdown during rumen digestion in sheep fed fresh herbage. During this period, condensed tannins in legumes were shown to spare protein from rumen digestion. This led to other research to identify the active components of the condensed tannin fraction and to the breeding of tannin-containing plants that is continuing today.

In the early 1990's, interest in greenhouse gases focused on ruminant methane as the major source of emission in New Zealand. Marc developed the first national inventory for ruminant methane emission in 1991 for the Ministry for the Environment for use in policy development. Marc has been involved in developing techniques for measuring and mitigating methane emission from grazing animals. Even in retirement, Marc has been refining methodologies for ruminant methane inventories to meet our obligations under the Kyoto protocol.

Our members will appreciate that this research has been fundamental to our production systems and will have ongoing effects via feed back through plant breeding programmes.

*Julian Lee*

**John Neil Clarke** M.Agr.Sc. Ph.D. has devoted his career to the development of knowledge in genetics and to its application for the improvement of our national sheep flock. He has an international reputation with regard to sheep breed comparisons, improving their growth and carcass composition, and modifying the quality of their wool. As either author or co-author of nearly 70 papers at this Society's Annual Conferences Neil has contributed the equivalent of a single volume of the Proceedings! Neil has served on the Committee and received the McMeekan Memorial Award in 1986.

Neil was born in Palmerston North with a noteworthy pedigree in agricultural research and sheep improvement. His father, Ted Clarke, had variously been Head of Sheep Husbandry at Massey Agricultural College, Superintendent at Whatawhata Hill Country Research Station and Director of the Sheep & Wool Division of the Department of Agriculture, as well as a foundation member of this Society.

Neil graduated from Massey University with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 1959. He returned to Massey in 1962 after 2 years on the family farm, having been awarded a New Zealand Wool Board Scholarship and undertook a Master of Agricultural Science in the Sheep Husbandry Department. He was awarded the degree with First Class Honours in 1963 and in that year joined the Genetics Section at Ruakura Animal Research Station.

In 1966 he was awarded a National Research Fellowship at the Institute of Animal Genetics in Edinburgh and gained his Ph.D. His thesis considered the developmental antagonism between carcass weight and fat content, using mice as a selection model. Subsequently he was able to apply these principles to sheep

improvement and facilitated by the arrival of ultrasound, developed index procedures for the simultaneous improvement of lean growth and carcass fatness that were rapidly adopted in the national performance recording scheme.

Dr Clarke returned to Ruakura in 1969 and became involved in the design, establishment and analysis of sheep breeding projects. However, from the ashes he developed the large Romney Strain Trial at Rotomahana, which became an industry focus for sheep breeding research for years.

Neil's activities have encompassed defining breeding objectives for genetic improvement; comparing families, strains and breeds for genetic merit; assessing alternative mating plans; and disseminating research information to industry. He became leader of the Ruakura Genetics Section in 1978, developing national improvement programmes and establishing training programmes to further industry adoption of animal breeding principles. He also made a very significant contribution in encouraging and participating in collaborative projects with scientists in other disciplines, especially in nutrition, physiology and meat, wool and veterinary science. His success in this area stemmed from his professional competence, pleasant personality, humour, enthusiasm and his concern for people.

He played a major role in the importation of exotic sheep breeds from Britain in 1972 and in the initiation and co-ordination of research projects and facilities for their evaluation in comparison with local breeds and crosses. The termination of this project in 1978, due to a suspected disease outbreak, was a bitter blow to Neil and his colleagues. Neil was the driving force in the successful importation of samples of the Texel, Oxford Down and Finnish Landrace breeds as frozen embryos and semen in 1984 for, this time from Scandinavia. These breeds are now well established in the New Zealand national flock due, in no small part, to Neil's activities.

Neil retired from AgResearch in March 2000, but continues to be closely involved with the development of technical aspects of Sheep Improvement Ltd. (SIL), the national performance recording programme. Where he employs his scientific ability, his versatility and his concern to ensure that the results of animal breeding research are applied in the industry to maximise genetic improvement.

Dr Clarke was also heavily involved with the Australian Association for Animal Breeding and Genetics dating back to its inaugural conference in 1979 and served a term as President. He was made a Fellow of AAABG at their 2001 Conference in Queenstown.

We are proud to nominate John Neil Clarke for Life Membership of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production.

*Dorrian Garrick, Chris Morris and Roland Sumner*

#### **YOUNG MEMBERS AWARD:**

Congratulations to **Jane Kay** who won the Young Members Award with her paper: *Endogenous synthesis and enhancement of conjugated linoleic acid in pasture-fed dairy cows.*

*Jane says:* Even though I was born a 'Smith' in Australia, I have ended up living in NZ as a 'Kay'. I still get called a 'Kwaussie' though, as I can't quite decide if I want the All Blacks or the Wallabies to win the World Cup. My background is in Physical Education and travelling and I have only been involved in Dairy science for three years, where I am currently completing a MSc. Hence, I learnt some valuable lessons as a fledgling NZSAP conference attendee in 2002.

Some of these are:

1. The significant effect of attire worn (or not worn) during conference presentations should not be discussed during the annual dinner
2. Learn the words to The Gambler: *You've got to know when to hold 'em, know when to fold 'em, know when to walk away and know when to let Sam Peterson drive the Dexcel Crew home*
3. Your level of embarrassment is inversely proportional to your level of alcohol consumption
4. Play as hard as you work
5. Don't drive home from Palmerston North with a Senior Scientist when you're not feeling altogether well

On a more serious note I would like to thank all those involved in the NZSAP conference. The Young Members award has given me a great boost to a career in science and I hope to take some of this new-found knowledge and confidence with me when I present at the American Dairy Science Association Conference in Quebec and at Cornell and Arizona Universities in the USA in a few weeks time.

### **SIR ARTHUR WARD AWARD:**

Paul Muir is a recognised authority in applied research, especially with respect to early lambing, lamb growth, beef production and calf rearing. Being at a regional research station, Paul's research and technology transfer projects have been fully integrated with the farming community and the industries and businesses involved with them.

Probably the best known project has been the Poukawa calf-rearing programme that began from a need to identify low-cost calf rearing systems. This project has developed a simple but novel calf-rearing facility, and a nation-wide technology transfer programme with seminars attracting an average of 90 calf rearers per venue in 2000. The programme also has wide industry support from the East Coast Beef Council, Meat NZ, PCL Feeds, Ngahiwi Farms, NZ Milk Products Ltd, NZ Holstein Friesian Association, MAF and AgMardt.

Like the calf project, the elite lamb programme has a very applied nature and generates high farmer interest, regularly attracting between 200 and 300 people to an annual field day at Poukawa. Similarly, it involves the likes of Richmond Ltd, Meat NZ, Sheep Improvement Ltd, and WoolPro. Paul's ability to present the information clearly to farmers, and his skills in developing the joint involvement of the meat, wool, processing and service industries has resulted in a project of great value to the sheep industry.

Some of Paul's major achievements in technology transfer over the last few years include: 4 elite lamb field days at Poukawa and a calf-rearing display at Mystery Creek; 3 *Number 8 Wired* television presentations on the elite lamb programme, colostrum and calf performance, and the performance of jersey-cross calves; presentations at over 50 farm discussion group meetings, seminars and field days; 15 calf-rearing seminars throughout the country; 70 newspaper articles; and an annual newsletter distributed to nearly 3000 calf-rearers. These efforts are also reflected in Paul's contribution to NZ scientific societies and the internationally refereed scientific literature.

The Sir Arthur Ward Award recognises the successful application of scientific research or farmer experimentation through a series of trials or effective extension in New Zealand animal production, and thus Paul Muir is a very deserving recipient.

*Mark Fisher and Terry Knight*

### **NZSAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2003**

---

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference will be held in Queenstown at the end of June 2003. In addition to the regular programme items, the team is planning a field trip to some local sheep and deer properties. Two contract sessions are being arranged, one on deer production and the other on sheep genetics.

*Allan Crawford*

*Conference Convenor*

[allan.crawford@agresearch.co.nz](mailto:allan.crawford@agresearch.co.nz)

### **OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS IS CHANGING!**

---

1) The URL of the NZSAP Homepage will change in the near future from the current address: <http://nzsap.rsnz.govt.nz> to a more new user-friendly URL of <http://nzsap.org.nz> Please update your links and bookmarks once we have made the change.

2) The winning papers from the Young Members award and the NZSAP Innovation Award (Science and Technology) are available on the website free of charge (i.e. to non-members as well as paid-up members). We consider this will increase the profile of these awards as well as provide potential members an insight into the quality of research contained in the proceedings.

3) If any paid-up members are having trouble accessing the PDF versions of the papers please contact me [pcharter@hotmail.com](mailto:pcharter@hotmail.com)

*Paul Charteris*

*Website Manager*

## **PROMISING NEW SCIENTISTS**

---

Year 13 (7th Form) students from 8 local secondary schools were invited to the conference. Sixty students from 5 of these schools expressed interest and attended for part of one day, the contract session on Greenhouse Gases. Prior to the conference each student was sent background information about Greenhouse Gas issues, and abstracts of the papers in that contract session. They were given a 10 min introductory talk prior to joining the main conference for the last couple of papers in the session. This was followed by an hour of discussion on what they had heard. The day ended with brief tours of some animal-related research facilities at Massey. Massey Agriculture sponsored the costs of the day including the bus, lunch and a small gift for each student. The following is an extract of a thank you from a student on behalf of her school.

*Gerald Cosgrove*

Dear Gerald,

First of all I'd like to say thanks for the great conference that you organised. The students that attended had a great day and really enjoyed the seminars. I'd also like to thank Massey Agriculture for the lunch and free bus travel that allowed us to be able to get to and from the conference easily. The gift given to every student who attended the conference afterwards was well received too. It was a generous gesture that we all appreciate. The day was well organised, and it was great that we were treated as guests.

I personally enjoyed the day a lot. I found that the issues involving green house gases within agriculture and the environment are incredibly important for our own generation, as the Kyoto Protocol has gone through. It was an incredibly good way to keep the young scientists of tomorrow informed on some of the upcoming issues that could shape our new government, and the environment.

The student debate was a good way to see how others viewed the issue, and it was also an excellent way to get people involved in the topic more, although many were very shy to start with. It was also a great to be able to ask questions that we were concerned about, without a lot of strangers looking at you strangely in a huge lecture theatre. The two seminars that were presented to us before the debate enabled us to be introduced to the topic, and gave us all general background information on the topic. I think however that it would have been more beneficial if the students had done more research on the issue, and perhaps presented a short seminar on their findings in a small group to the other students at the conference, before going to the lecture theatre. This way students would become more involved in the topic, and perhaps would be able to come up with more ideas that may help scientists investigating the issue in their research. It would also encourage young budding scientists into looking at key issues in New Zealand, and question what can be done about these issues.

I believe that a lot of students don't realise how beneficial science is in the real world, and therefore don't perceive it as a viable career. I personally really enjoy science, and am hoping to continue studying it next year at Massey University. However, many students at 7th form level are unaware of the fact that scientists do exist, and that science can be a rewarding career. I believe that if this aspect is advertised more, then it may be possible that more students will want to get involved in science. This way, we will be able to keep new scientists interested, and have scientists for the future.

Thanks a lot, it really was a good conference.

*Stephanie Cocker*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

---

Events are listed on the Royal Society Events Calendar see <http://www.rsnz.govt.nz/news/events/index.php>

***Animal production for the well-being of the human population.*** World Association of Animal Production. Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. 26 – 31 October 2003. For more information contact: Prof, Sergio Nicolaiewsky, Chairman Organising Committee of 9<sup>th</sup> WCAP, Av. Bento Gonçalves, 7712 – Caixa Postal 776, 90001-970 – Porto Alegre RS, Brazil. Tel: +55 51 3316 3609, Fax: +55 51 3316 3888; email: [wcap.2003@ufrgs.br](mailto:wcap.2003@ufrgs.br) or website [www.wcap2003.ufrgs.br](http://www.wcap2003.ufrgs.br)

## **BLOOPERS FROM PAPERS**

---

The editor cannot continue to accept very late papers and still retain his sanity: a few days late, I can cope with, but not weeks.

If you plan a contract session, you need to get it accepted by the committee [along with the other abstracts] at the December meeting. **So get planning now.** Contracts are expected to be the best typescripts I receive, because they have been refereed and edited before they arrive on my desk. No more drafts or they will have to be submitted even earlier!

Figure quality must improve: I will ask referees to be very hard on this in future.

Hyphens: the editor will not argue about the use of hyphens. Authors should learn their use (see the last blooper below).

keywords: and

... bovine perm ...

... correlations in the grazing cows fell

... despite many years of research, it is difficult in practice for farmers to maintain mixed swards

... more sever ...

... recovery of clinical signs ...

... sulla supplementation with pasture ...

... usurps the role of God etc.

... verascity ...

... was been ...

... 70% alcohol soaked cotton wool swabs ...

*Sam Peterson*

*Editor*

## **ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD REPORT**

---

True alpacas and llamas could be at greater risk of extinction than the already “endangered species” of South American Camelids (Guanaco and Vicuña). This was one of the most important reports presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the Peruvian Association of Animal Production (APPA) in September 2001, in Lima Peru, attended by **Dr William Vivanco** under sponsorship of the NZSAP. It is now possible to clearly identify each of the different species of South American Camelids and trace back their ancestry thanks to mitochondrial and nuclear markers developed by Dr Jane Wheeler and collaborators at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos of Lima, Peru.

The findings on populations of Peruvian alpacas and llamas are very worrying for the Peruvians and for alpaca and llama breeders the world over. Only 20% of the animals sampled were “pure”, the rest, despite having clear phenotypical features either of alpaca or llama, were actually hybrids between these two main species. Efforts to identify “pure” animals are in progress and the use of advanced reproductive technologies in these species is expected to have a major role in rebuilding the pure population.

Dr Vivanco gave two papers on the use of advanced reproductive technologies for this purpose; one on the technical aspects and performance of the application of reproductive technologies in small ruminants and one explaining the genetic impact of applying reproductive technologies on livestock populations. He also informed the Peruvians on NZ capabilities for advanced reproductive technologies in livestock that other countries could access. Reciprocally, the Peruvian scientists have offered their capabilities for DNA testing of South American camelids to be used for testing alpaca and llama samples from New Zealand populations or the future use of their markers in NZ laboratories.

Other highlights of the conference were the reports on live births from artificial insemination in alpacas with holding rates to birth of more than 50% for first inseminations, which is comparable with results in other species. This opens a new era in the genetic improvement of these animals with possibilities of international interchange of semen, this was of special satisfaction for Dr Vivanco who pioneered the use of AI in alpacas when working in Peru for the National Agrarian University back in the late seventies-early eighties.

## NZSAP CD-ROM

---

The 2002 edition of the CD-ROM has been completed and those who have ordered copies should have been received them by the time this is printed. The 2002 disk includes the proceedings from 1986 to 2002. For those who are unaware, the entire NZSAP conference proceedings (1941 to 2002) are available in a two-CD set to members at the cost of \$20 and to non-members for \$120. This is outstanding value as the cost of purchasing the last 3 years proceedings is currently \$160. The CD-Roms are available from the Executive Secretary, Lynne Smith. For those of you that already have the CDs, you can replace your 1986 - 2001 disk with the 1986 - 2002 one for \$10. **We would like to point out that you cannot purchase the 1986 - 2002 disk at the replacement price unless you already have the 1986 - 2002 disk!**

### *Copyright*

The copyright provisions on the CD are the same as those on the bound copies of the proceedings. You can copy articles for your own personal use and create reprints of your papers to send to others. It may be more convenient to electronically mail a pdf file in response to reprint requests. A severe breach of copyright for example would be the printing of multiple copies of the proceedings to sell them in competition with NZSAP and would precipitate legal action!

## CONTROLLED RELEASE WEBSITE

---

*Although the title above might seem oxymoronic, I am sure the content is anything but that. (Ed)*

Craig Bunt (InterAg) and Ron Anderson (Ardel) have established the Animal Health Consortium through the Controlled Release Society Website. Their first Newsletter has been published on the site. A direct link to the newsletter is: <http://www.controlledrelease.org/ahc/newsletters/newsletter1.htm> The Newsletter explains all you need to know about the AHC. Remember, the success of the AHC website depends upon you forwarding this address to your members and/or colleagues. Please emphasize to your members that the success of this effort depends upon the active participation of everybody. Therefore, please encourage them to make full use of this opportunity by providing Drs Marilyn Martinez or Michael Rathbone with information, contributions, ideas, hot topics, informative websites, other organizations to contact, and any comments or suggestions they may have for improved communication. It is our hope that this site will continue to evolve as we strive to meet the diverse needs of our science. We look forward to working with you to bring the worldwide animal health community together in this interactive network. Contacting the AHC is as simple as using one of the forms embedded in the Website, or by contacting Mike or Marilyn directly.

*Very best wishes, Mike and Marilyn*

## MEMBERSHIP

---

The New Zealand Society of Animal Production warmly welcomes the following 31 new members:

Jeremy Bryant	Palmerston North	Renae Bennett	LIC, Hamilton
Adrienne Cavanagh	Palmerston North	Bevan Collie	Palmerston North
Kendra Davis	Dexcel, Hamilton	Matthew Deighton	AgR, Palmerston North
Andrew Dowling	Taihape	Roger Ellison	Hamilton
Adrew Greer	Lincoln University	Boyd Gudex	Landcorp, Rotorua
Rodger Jensen	Dexcel, Hamilton	Jenny Juengel	AgR, Upper Hutt
Judith MacDonald	Mangakino	Sue McCoard,	AgR, Palmerston North
Roger Marchant	Upper Hutt	Hose Maria Martinez-Marecos	Palmerston North
Roger Marshall	Marton	Stuart Miller	Wellington
Tara Pande	Palmerston North	Fiona Paterson	Ongaonga
Patricia Pearce	Marton	Alvaro Romera	Palmerston North
Philip Sapsford	Christchurch	Carlos Alberto Ramirez-Restrepo	Massey University
Paul Shorten	AgR, Hamilton	David Silva	Palmerston North
Paula Thorne	Dexcel, Hamilton	Andrew Ward	Palmerston North
Dave Warburton	Rotorua	Peter Webb	Taupo
Dave Wells	AgR, Hamilton		

Resignations were accepted from 2 members, leaving a current membership of 523.

### **CABI WEBSITE**

---

An abstracts database with more than a million records derived from the world-renowned CAB ABSTRACTS™ database, with linkage to journals hosted by Ingenta. In addition, the service incorporates a whole array of useful information resources such as international news updated daily, reviews, calendar of forthcoming conferences and meetings, full text conference proceedings, full text of selected book titles, links to other selected internet resources and those all important job listings. Check it out: [www.animalscience.com](http://www.animalscience.com)

### **NEW ZEALAND VETERINARY JOURNAL ON CD**

---

The complete archive of the *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* is now available on CD-Rom in full text, fully indexed and searchable. Browse or search for any article or information published in the *NZVJ* over the last 50 years and retrieve the full text, instantly! A three CD set for PC or Mac capable of being uploaded onto computer hard-drives and intra-nets, with extensible indexes that can be added to incrementally with subsequent releases. Featuring state-of-the-art search software for searching the full text and/or titles of all articles for the occurrence of any word or combinations of words, as well as indexes of authors, volume, year, article type, animal type and subject, and features such as "by the same author" and "same subject" links. Demo version and ordering details are available at: <http://www.vetjournal.org.nz>

Also available - Special *Jubilee Issue* of the *NZVJ* Featuring 120 pages of reviews, commentaries and highlights of veterinary research in New Zealand over the last 50-100 years! Articles are written to give readers concise summaries with up-to-date historical perspectives in 30 topic areas and to serve as gateways into the scientific literature of veterinary research conducted in New Zealand in these selected areas. Together with the *NZVJ* on CD-Rom, this issue makes an invaluable reference resource! A discounted rate has been negotiated for NZSAP members so don't forget to say you read it here.

Contact [Jacqui@vets.org.nz](mailto:Jacqui@vets.org.nz) OR Jacqui Roddick, NZVA, PO Box 11-212, Wellington, New Zealand to order.

### **"LAND OF THE LONG BLACK CLOUD"**

---

I have been member of the Australian Society of Animal Production for longer than this one, and since I have family in South Australia I decided to go to their biennial conference in Adelaide.

The theme was **Finding the Balance – Profitability with Responsibility**, and it was all about trying to reverse the destruction of Australia's fragile ecosystems while remaining on the land and producing some kind of animal product. Kangaroo production is apparently less destructive than sheep production! Consumer concerns over welfare and "green production practices" were also high on the list. I must confess that my home country has a lot of scars on it from salinity, erosion and mulesing and given the low rainfall and low fertility soils it will be a long road to reverse practices and prejudices while producing.

One comment that particularly offended me on your behalf was from Associate Professor Rick Roush from the CRC for weed management. In referring to the moratorium on genetic modification, he called New Zealand "The land of the long black cloud". He gave figures like only two out of fifty two million wild radish seeds hybridised with canola. The scientists around me (and within me) nodded sagely as it was an even more remote possibility than having a funding application approved. Then the journalist in me picked up the words from the anonymous person next to me who said "So one in every 26 million seeds is going to be a hybrid!" – there is a chance. Rick gave compelling examples that genetically modified plants were our salvation, and would simultaneously feed the starving world and reduce pesticide and herbicide use. He claimed there was very little chance that pollen would travel far, as most of it falls near the plant and then the scientist in me thought about normal distributions and how the x-axis goes out to infinity on both sides - there is a chance. Rick's paper finishes with little more than the Royal Commission concluded; "Still, thorough regulation is needed, and not all proposed genetic modification should be allowed."

So as usual, with very few facts and a pounding heart I tried to get a question in - but I think the chairman knew I was trouble, so I approached Rick after the session. I pointed out that New Zealand was a stand alone country on the "Nuclear Free" issue, but some negligence on Three Mile Island in his country of birth, and the Russians at Chernobyl and those arrogant Frenchmen at Muroroa had ruined all that for us despite the fact that most of the radiation falls near the source. I also gave him Ben Elton's calculations that nuclear power plants are only supposed to breakdown once in a thousand years, and since there are a nearly a

thousand of them in the world we can expect one a year – there is a chance. I pointed out to him that the majority of New Zealanders are thinking “Here we go again!” In short, I gave him one long black pollen-laced radiation cloud.

*Scobie PS I also support the All Blacks - can I stay?*

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

---

**Members:** The number in the top right hand corner of the address label on this newsletter indicates the year that you last paid your membership. Two years arrears and you are no longer member. Then you will have to go to the fuss and bother of taking it out of your CV and a heap of other sequelae will prevail, like a drop in salary, loss of self respect and so on. Payments to NZSAP and sent to Lynne Smith, Executive Secretary will be followed by back copies of the 2001 and 2002 Proceedings.

**Non-members:** An invitation is extended to those involved in the field of Animal Production to apply for membership in the New Zealand Society of Animal Production. The Society is concerned with all aspects of Animal Production and in particular:

- promoting communication and collaboration between those involved in animal production;
- promoting the application of sound practices in animal production;
- promoting the scientific study of animal production;
- holding a regular conference as a forum for presentation of technical and applied topics in animal production; and
- publishing conference proceedings and other occasional publications relevant to animal production.

Application forms can be found on the society web site:- <http://nzsap.org.nz> or from a member of the committee.

## THE NEW COMMITTEE

The new President Catherine Morrow  
Now looking slightly more hollow  
Has a new baby  
And we think maybe  
That many more will follow!

The Vice Presidents name is Neville  
I can't think what the devil  
Rhymes with Jopson  
Except he gets on  
And keeps us all on the level

A new manager for the website  
Paul Charteris will be just right  
For he gets the net  
And I'll bet you get  
More service with very good insight

For the conference Allan Crawford  
Has put his best foot forward  
And he might yet  
Learn to regret  
That "Yes I'll volunteer" word

Mark Fisher the President Past  
This year will be his last  
Always encouraging  
Good at managing  
We're sad he's gone so fast

About our Gwyneth Verkerk  
It really is very hard work  
Publications Manager  
And I will wager  
It is driving her berserk!

Roland Sumner as secretary continues  
He keeps us in line for "you"  
And his mighty pen  
Records us when  
We all express our own views

Unfortunately for Lynne and John Smith  
I'll put them in one verse with  
A note that you  
Should really view  
Their efforts are worth more than thith(!)

Sam Peterson the editor fanatical  
Continues on just as radical  
Such a big chore  
We think for sure  
He should drop it and take a sabbatical

Finally of course there is me  
And I promise that I will be  
This year no more  
Outside the law  
But I'm sorry I'll still be Scobie.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

---

The current Management Committee is:

		Phone	Fax	Email	Location
PRESIDENT	Catherine Morrow	07 838 5183	07 838 5628	catherine.morrow@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura
VICE-PRESIDENT	Neville Jopson	03 477 6375	03 477 6376	njopson@abacusbio.co.nz	Abacus Biotech Dunedin
PAST-PRESIDENT	Mark Fisher	06 874 8757	06 874 8703	mark.fisher@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Poukawa
SECRETARY	Roland Sumner	07 838 5272	07 838 5117	roland.sumner@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura
TREASURER	John Smith	07 838 5533	07 838 5658	john.smith@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura
EDITOR	Sam Peterson	06 356 9099	06 350 5674	s.peterson@massey.ac.nz	Massey University
NEWSLETTER	David Scobie	03 983 3921	03 325 3194	scobie@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Lincoln
PUBLICATIONS	Gwyneth Verkerk	07 838 5694	07 838 5670	gwyneth.verkerk@dexcel.co.nz	Dexcel Hamilton
WEB SITE	Paul Charteris	06 3258 404		pcharter@hotmail.com	42 A Bell St. Kawerau
CONFERENCE	Allan Crawford	03 351 8204	06 351 8032	allan.crawford@agresearch.co.nz	AgR/Otago University
EXEC. SEC.	Lynne Smith	07 856 9150	07 856 9150	nzsap.animal@xtra.co.nz	Hamilton

---

An electronic version of this newsletter and other information on the Society is available at:  
<http://nzsap.org.nz>

Any contributions to the Newsletter should be forwarded to: David Scobie, AgResearch, PO Box 60,  
Lincoln. Email: [scobie@agresearch.co.nz](mailto:scobie@agresearch.co.nz)

**RETURN MAIL ADDRESS** Executive Secretary  
New Zealand Society of Animal Production  
AgResearch, Ruakura  
Private Bag 3123,  
Hamilton, New Zealand.