

## LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

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### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP:

#### **Kenneth Eric Jury**

**Dip.Math.Stat, ONZM, B.A. (NZ), M.Sc.(N.Z)**

Life membership of the Society is given to those who have 'rendered signal service' to animal production. In a career spanning 38 years in research in animal production, Kenneth Eric Jury has amply demonstrated that he meets this criterion. Ken was appointed Assistant Biometrician at Ruakura in 1958 and assumed full responsibility for biometrics and computing in 1969. In this role he became involved in a wide variety of research projects while at the same time developing the computing facilities for the Ruakura campus. These developments allowed the comprehensive statistical analyses of large-scale animal trials including re-analysis of older data. Of particular significance was Ken Jury's work with beef cow performance in collaboration with Clive Dalton and Graham Everitt, and in hill-country sheep production with the late Graham Hight. A large number of papers read at successive Conferences of this Society and others from 1960 to 1980 were based on trials to which he had contributed much in terms of design, analysis and interpretation.

In 1979 he became Director of the Ruakura Animal Research Station and continued in that role and its semantic variations under MAF until 1990. This role brought him, in particular, into a much closer relationship with the Dairy Industry, especially as a member of the New Zealand Dairy Board Livestock Improvement Council. He was also a member of Council at the University of Waikato for 9 years, during which time he worked towards the establishment of two collaborative research centres, in Animal Behaviour and Welfare, and in Animal Biology, which have enabled many students to complete post-graduate degrees at Ruakura. He was a Board member of Sheepec, the joint venture between MAF and a group of leading breeders (and the brainchild of Neil Clarke) to develop the integration of the exotic sheep breeds into New Zealand flocks.

In 1990, he became the Chief Executive of the newly formed Dairying Research Corporation (DRC) in Hamilton, charged with the task of bringing a new enterprise into being and growing it to become a successful research organisation responsible for applied dairy production research. In this role he had to face the not always parallel interests of the joint venture shareholders and the initially negative



attitude of Crown funders towards applied research. Ken held strongly and consistently to the view that the Dairy Board funding and its agreement with the Crown meant that the DRC had to align its objectives to the Dairy Industry and to focus on farmer needs. Consequently, the opportunity to expand dairy programmes at DRC was one that he was determined should be consistent with this philosophy, and, therefore, was based on extensive consultation with farmers. He recruited staff appropriate to the new research effort and was able to ensure that DRC achieved an injection of the enthusiasm of a group of young scientists and technicians. In addition, he determined that where DRC lacked expertise, it funded work elsewhere and, in particular, supported University students who were interested in careers in the Dairy Industry

Ken Jury has also been one of this Society's strongest supporters over several decades and in the mid-1980's was a very active member of the Management Committee. In particular, he was responsible for organising a very successful Asian-Australasian Association of Animal Production Societies' Congress in Hamilton which greatly enhanced the standing of the Society among the AAAP members and consolidated the financial position of the Society. Later he represented NZSAP at two AAAP Congresses. His Presidential term in 1989, corresponded with the Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, marked by the Annual Conference held in Wellington and his instigation of special Jubilee Awards.

He received the McMeekan Memorial Award in 1988 and in 1990 was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Agricultural Science.

In the last Queen's Birthday Honours List (1998) he was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the Dairy Industry.

This citation provides a picture of someone whose career has been dedicated to improvement of animal production in New Zealand through research and development. Such was Ken Jury's career that it was a relatively simple task to demonstrate that he is well worthy of the nomination for Life Membership of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production.

*S.R. Davis*