

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Kenneth Raymond Drew
BAGSci., MAgSci., PhD

We wish to nominate Kenneth Raymond Drew for Honorary Life Membership of NZSAP. In 1962 Ken commenced his long career as an animal scientist at the Taieri Agriculture Centre (later renamed the Invermay Agricultural Centre) having recently completed his M.Ag.Sci. with honours from Lincoln College. His early work involved nutritional studies in hoggets both in the field and indoors in makeshift metabolism crates in a converted cowshed – in today's terms this would be known as a dairy unconversion. In 1968, he commenced PhD studies at Cornell in New York State where he studied the effects of compensatory growth on the carcass composition of lambs. Upon returning to Invermay in 1971, he continued his sheep nutrition research but soon his attention was drawn to red deer and it was his subsequent involvement with this new industry where Ken was to leave his greatest mark.



Ken was responsible for the establishment of the deer research programme at Invermay which quickly became the leading establishment in the world for deer farming research. The first red deer arrived in at Invermay in October 1973, and in 1974 wapiti from Fiordland were introduced, followed by the addition of fallow deer in 1976. The initial group of wapiti succumbed to stress and disease, but in 1978 a herd was successfully established. This was boosted in 1981 with the importation of animals from Canada. The establishment of these herds was characterised by the strong contribution from the farmers and individuals that were creating the vision of deer farming. This association between industry and research has become the hallmark of the industry and a feature of Ken's leadership.

Throughout his involvement with deer research Ken fostered further strong links with the farming industry, especially through the Deer Farmers' Association. In 1975 he was one of the 25 founding members of the Deer Farmers' Association and in later years served as chairman of the Otago branch. From 1990-1994 he was president of the Elk and Wapiti Society of NZ, and in 1994 he was honoured with life membership.

In the 1974 and 1977 Ken initiated, convened and edited the proceedings for national deer farming conferences promoted by NZSAP. In 1983 he convened the first international conference on the "Biology of Deer Production", and assisted Peter Fennessy as co-editor of the landmark proceedings containing 84 papers. This was the first meeting to bring together all the

diverse aspects of deer biology. It also added another dimension of "production" because New Zealand was now rapidly establishing deer farms, and the production aspects of velvet and venison were becoming significant. Following the First International Conference on the Biology of Deer, Ken was on the international steering committee for the next four events and he continued to play a major role in international deer science communication and industry development. This extended to invitations to conferences,

including presentations at plenary sessions, in South Africa, Thailand, USA and Australia. Also in 1983, his expertise in deer farming research was recognised by an invitation from the National Academy of Sciences to deliver lectures in Utah and Washington on NZ deer farming. In 1988 he was the co-editor of the book "Wildlife Production Systems", published by Cambridge University Press.

Ken served on the committee of NZSAP from 1972 until 1976, and in 1980 co-edited NZSAP Occasional Publication No. 7, "Supplementary Feeding". In 1981 NZSAP presented Ken with the prestigious McMeekan Memorial Award for contributions to the development of the deer farming industry in New Zealand. He was awarded the NZ Commemoration Medal for Service to Deer Research and in 1995 he was honoured with the Lincoln University Bledisloe Medal. In that year he was also recognised by the industry with the Deer Industry Award which is an annual recognition for outstanding achievement and contribution to industry.

Ken conceived the idea of DEEResearch and during the two to three years before his retirement he was the main driver of this joint venture between the NZ Deer Farmers Association, the NZ Game Industry Board (now amalgamated as Deer Industry New Zealand) and AgResearch. DEEResearch, formally established in 2001, invests product levy-sourced industry funds in research and technology transfer projects of relevance to industry needs. Ken's legacy of DEEResearch has established a balance between industry and public investment into AgResearch's deer science capability, as well as the support of a number of university projects.

At Invermay, Ken remained totally committed to his staff and the deer programme he pioneered. He has published a large amount of original work and his huge contribution to the industry and science has been recognised by a number of prestigious awards. Many in the scientific community and the farming industry have benefited immensely from his endeavours over his long

career and will continue to do so for a very long time to come.

Ken Drew has dedicated his career to animal production and it is our privilege to nominate him for Life Membership of the New Society of Animal Production.

G.H. Davis and A.J.T. Pearse