

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

### **Keith (Jock) Lindsay Macmillan** **BAGSc, MAgSc, PhD, DSc, FRSNZ**

Jock Macmillan initiated his career in agricultural science in 1958 by enrolling in the BAGSc degree programme at Massey University. During the subsequent 46 years, his devotion to the animal production industry and achievements in cattle reproduction have been nothing short of remarkable....with the promise of still much to come.

Jock graduated with a BAGSc in 1962, and then completed a Masters degree in short time at the Awahuri AB Centre. His thesis research used identical twins to compare the stimulus value of a cow that was in oestrus when used as a decoy for semen collections from AB sires as compared to using the same cow when it was at mid-cycle. He returned to Awahuri in 1968 as a research officer with the NZ Dairy Board, having completed a PhD as well as receiving the Sigma Xi Outstanding Student Award at Michigan State University. In 1977, Jock was appointed to a scientist position at the Ruakura Animal Research Station with the brief of developing research programmes in mastitis, cow condition, genetics and reproduction. Not only was Jock an accomplished scholar, he was able to apply the knowledge gained from research to benefit industry in a practical manner. Examples of this are the widely used tailpainting system and the CIDR as management aids for reproduction in cattle. One of his earliest contributions was to define the term Submission Rate after he had identified this measure as being critical to the reproductive performance of a seasonally calving herd. He subsequently described calving patterns based on the date for the Planned Start of Calving (PSC) and the importance of the interval from PSC-to-midpoint. He received the International Scientist's Award from the American Dairy Science Association in 1991 and was elected the first Life Member of the NZ Large Herds Association in 1997. As his accomplishments to serving science and industry in New Zealand accumulated, the letters behind his name have continued to grow, becoming a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand (FRSNZ) in 1995, and conferment of an honorary Doctorate in Science (DSc) from Massey University in 2003.

Jock has made an outstanding contribution to our Society over the years. He served on the NZSAP Management Committee from 1976 to 1980 (President in 1979) and again as Treasurer from 1994 to 1996. His service to the Society also included the role of NZSAP



Representative to the 'International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR) and the Asia-Australasian Association of Animal Production (AAAP). Jock played a major role in establishing the awards that the Society offers. He revised the specifications of the McMeekan Memorial Award. Notably, he concluded the negotiations for the Sir Arthur Ward Award (with Peter Rattray) and the LIC Lecture (with Glen Whittaker). In 1983, he received the McMeekan Memorial Award for his outstanding services to the Society.

The organisational and financial strength that our Society presently enjoys is much attributed to Jock's inputs of wisdom and prudence in past years. The investment portfolio managed by the Society that allows for the substantial travel fund awards is partly a result of Jock's initiatives beginning with the successful Dairy Production From Pasture Conference in 1982 co-hosted by the Australian Society of Animal Production. The widely read Occasional Publication No.8 was produced from this sponsored conference that blazed a path which other societies such as Large Herds Association have followed. Jock also had a key role in assisting John Smith to compile Occasional Publication No.12 'Reproductive management of grazing ruminants in New Zealand'. Many other initiatives of this nature were managed by Jock, including the New Zealand Embryo Transfer Workshop in 1994. They were successful and reflected positively on the Society.

Jock has supervised more than 24 postgraduate students to date. Many of these have come along later in his career as a Professor in the Department of Veterinary Science at the University of Melbourne. Recently (December 2003), six PhD students were simultaneously under his direct guidance. Many of his past students have taken up successful careers in the scientific and veterinary fields. Some have been finalists in the Young Member Award competitions, and two of these (Scott McDougall and Chris Burke) received this award. Other winners (e.g. Catherine Morrow) were also guided to some way by Jock in receiving this award. Jock also co-supervised Geoff Asher's PhD and Geoff was awarded the McMeekan Memorial Award in 2000.

Jock defines the meaning of being an internationally published and world-renown animal scientist. He has his name on more than 150 peer-reviewed papers (including another 13 in 2003) and more

than 100 refereed conference proceedings (at least 70 of these being with NZSAP). He wrote 'Breeding Briefs' in the NZ Dairy Exporter every two months for 25 consecutive years and has almost 100 presentations to farmers' conferences like the Ruakura Farmers' and Large Herds Conferences. Put another way, Jock has produced a publication for every month of his 40-year scientific career, and averages two NZSAP Conference proceedings for each of the years since joining the Society in 1968. His absence on any papers for the 2004 Conference can be forgiven. One of Jock's favourite 'claims to fame' is authoring a paper in *Theriogenology* (1974) that starts on Page 1 of Issue 1 of Volume 1. In addition to writing papers, Jock has been the Editor-in-Chief of the *Animal Reproduction Science (ARS)* journal since 1992. Over this time, ARS has risen in stature to be the highest ranked journal in the field of animal/dairy science outside the USA according to the International Citation Index.

This citation emphasizes Jock's contributions to the Society and its stakeholders, those involved in New Zealand agriculture. For these efforts and achievements, we are proud to nominate Jock Macmillan for Honorary Life Membership to the New Zealand Society of Animal Production.

*Chris Burke and Gwyneth Verkerk*