

## HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

### Dr John Frederick Smith BScAgric, MSc Agric, PhD

In the 1974 proceedings of this Society, a paper titled 'Oestrus synchronization in cattle' by J.F. Smith was published. That single paper was the first of what has been an amazingly prolific contribution to NZSAP. Since 1974, there have been another 73 papers presented to the Annual Conference over the past 30 years that have included J.F. Smith in the list of authors. John has been either the senior (n=46) or a co-author (n=28), on presentations describing research findings to all but three Conferences (1994, 1999, 2003) during those 30 years. For those who regard the statistical analysis as an imperative, the mean number of papers per conference was 2.47 with a standard error of  $\pm 0.28$ .

John Frederick Smith completed his BScAgric at the University of Sydney in 1962. He then studied under Prof. T.J. Robinson and during this time qualified for the degrees of MScAgric and PhD. John held the EHB Lefoy Post-doctoral Research Fellowship at the University of Western Australia from 1969 until 1972, when he came to New Zealand as a scientist at Ruakura.

Since then John's publication record has been extensive and has covered a variety of research topics including sheep AI, cattle AI, synchronisation of oestrus (cattle, sheep, deer), nutritional effects on ovulation rate, responses to steroid immunisation, seasonality of reproduction, infertility effects of phyto-oestrogens, semen diluents and more recently the cryopreservation and artificial breeding of shellfish. In recent years, quite outside his scientist role John has made a major contribution to Animal Ethics at Ruakura, in the wider AgResearch context and the Waikato Animal Research community.

In 1995 John was awarded the Society's McMeekan Memorial Award for his work identifying nutritional components that influence lambing rates when ewes are 'flushed' just prior to mating. In 2001 a paper by J. F. Smith *et al.* titled 'Cryopreservation of shellfish sperm, eggs and embryos' won the Society's Innovation Award (Science and Technology) for its innovative development of a fertilisation assay.

As well as being its most prolific contributing author, John has made a major impact on the management of this Society in various organisational roles. A financial member of NZSAP since 1972, he was Honorary



Secretary from 1979 until 1982, when he began the 3-year cycle that revolves around the Presidency. He has also chaired or been involved in various sub-committees. In 1996 John was the Chairman of the Organising Committee for a very successful International meeting on 'Techniques of gamete manipulation and storage' a pre-ICAR meeting held in Hamilton that resulted in a profit of \$9,500, which was donated to NZSAP. John co-edited with Des Fielden, Occasional Publication 12 'Reproductive Management of Grazing Ruminants in New Zealand', published in 1998. He was author/co-author of two chapters titled 'Reproductive management of sheep' and 'Seasonal factors influencing reproductive management'. In 1998 John again took office, this time in the role of Honorary Treasurer and until 2003 he managed the Society's financial position with dedication and flair. John is a (NZSAP nominated) New Zealand representative on the International Congress on Animal Reproduction (ICAR) – International Standing Committee. As John's wife Lynne is Executive Secretary, he still maintains a link with the Society's affairs.

As well as the visible work that he has done for NZSAP, John Smith has had a profound impact on many of the people who make up our membership. That influence is set to carry on for many years as those whose careers he has touched continue to contribute to Animal Production in New Zealand and to this Society. He has always been happy to mentor and acknowledge young scientists and technicians, and many in this room will attest to the positive effect that John has had and continues to have on their careers. Similarly there are many, ourselves included, who are proud to say that John is a friend as well as a colleague. In our respective presidential addresses, we both drew on Smithy's paradigm – on the one hand his example as a prodigious writer of scientific papers, and on the other his unhesitating acknowledgement of the team that has supported him in that work.

John Smith also has an uncanny ability to initiate, stimulate and occasionally terminate debate within this Society. He has never been afraid to speak his mind nor to disagree with individuals, concepts, precepts or hypotheses. He may not often be diplomatic, he may

sometimes be dogmatic but he is always fair and he is unwaveringly true to his principles.

It is in recognition of John's outstanding research and publication record in animal production and his substantial and influential contribution to the Society that

we nominate Dr John Frederick Smith for life membership of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production.

*Grant Shackell and Catherine Morrow*