

## Joint 2008 NZSAP/ASAP Conference

The 68th Annual Conference of NZSAP will be joint with the 27th Biennial Conference for the Australian Society of Animal Production (ASAP) and will be held at the University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus, Brisbane, Australia between 24-27th June 2008.

This is the first ever joint meeting of NZSAP and ASAP and so we expect a big contingent of aussies and kiwis. Dennis Poppi, Federal President of ASAP, and his local organising committee in Queensland, are doing a fantastic job co-ordinating this event with us. As supported by the vast majority of feedback received from NZSAP members, this will be an excellent opportunity to discuss data and ideas with Australian colleagues with the prospect of fostering closer trans-Tasman collaborations. In addition to all the benefits of a joint scientific meeting, the formal components of the Society's annual conference will be retained; including, the NZSAP Proceedings, 2008 AGM, President's address, The LandCorp Farming Ltd Lecture, the Young Members Award session and Awards ceremony, plus a great time in Brisbane!

### Registration

Keep an eye on the NZSAP website ([www.nzsap.org.nz](http://www.nzsap.org.nz)) for conference details as they are developed. Also bookmark the ASAP website ([www.asap.asn.au](http://www.asap.asn.au)) for additional information. Please note that for the 2008 Conference, students will receive a half-price concession on registration fees.

### Call for Abstracts

The deadline for initial abstract submission is Friday 2nd November 2007. Please refer to instructions in this newsletter. This year there will be the option of selecting either a 4-page full Paper or a 2-page Brief Communication. Papers and Brief Communications submitted through NZSAP will be published in our Society's Proceedings. Publication of Brief Communications does not preclude authors from presenting data in an international journal.

In addition, at the Conference there will be a mix of oral and poster presentations because of the increased numbers with a joint meeting. These will be selected from the contributed Papers and Brief Communications/Abstracts submitted from both NZSAP and ASAP. In the first instance, authors will be given the option of their preferred mode of presentation, but the final decision will be made by the conference organising committee.

### Important Notices:

- 1) 2008 Conference papers - Abstracts must be received by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2007.
- 2) 31<sup>st</sup> January - Animal Science Award Applications to Executive Secretary
- 3) 31<sup>st</sup> January - AgResearch Animal Genomics Award applications to Executive Secretary
- 4) 31<sup>st</sup> January – McMeekan Memorial Award, Sir Arthur Ward Award and Life Membership nominations

## PRESIDENT'S PIECE

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At the end of my previous Newsletter piece, I remarked about the financial strength of the Society and opportunities that provides for us to under-pin new initiatives. Organising our 2008 meeting jointly with the Australian Society of Animal Production meeting in Brisbane is one such venture. I am really appreciative of the effort of David Wells and his 'local' organising team for leading the charge in working with Dennis Poppi and ASAP on this. Although this will bring new challenges and some risks, it is extremely welcome because of the opportunities for science dialogue and collaboration. It reflects the way that we are now doing our science. Many branches of science involve increasingly expensive equipment and other resources that no one research group can justify. We are spending more time on local and international collaborations to address large issues at the interfaces of traditional disciplines.

Other discussions about new initiatives are underway and we are always interested to take suggestions from members. One of the things that has struck me about New Zealand animal science is the number of senior people that are at or close to retiring. Thankfully, there are some of us 'under 50s' around as well – and we need to take up the challenge of filling gaps left by some of these greats. We all need to look for opportunities to contribute to the good of animal science through getting involved in things beyond our day-to-day work: helping plan and run meetings, editing and refereeing for publications, contributing to public understanding of science and agriculture etc. Whilst the University Performance Based Research Fund (PBRF) has been maligned for over-emphasis on refereed international papers, it also recognises 'contributions to the research environment'.

One of the aspects of our activities that I have been chewing over since I joined the Management Committee is the format of our Proceedings. Our Proceedings series is well recognised around the world and we want to grow its reputation further. For that reason, we will continue with our own Proceedings for papers submitted to the Brisbane meeting from our own members.

We have great diversity in our meeting attendees, membership and readership and this means differences in what people require from Proceedings. Copyright restrictions on further publication of studies reported as Full Papers in the Proceedings mean that we may get less of the basic and strategic science papers than we may like – these authors often wish to publish their studies in international journals.

The Call for Papers for the 2008 meeting is launched with this Newsletter and I would like to remind members that they can elect to present their work as a 'Brief Communication' – you should indicate this preference on the abstract form and preface your papers' title: '**BRIEF COMMUNICATION**:". Information contained in these papers can be used for publication in an international refereed journal at a later date. I encourage a good representation of all aspects of New Zealand animal science – basic, strategic and applied- in Brisbane next year.

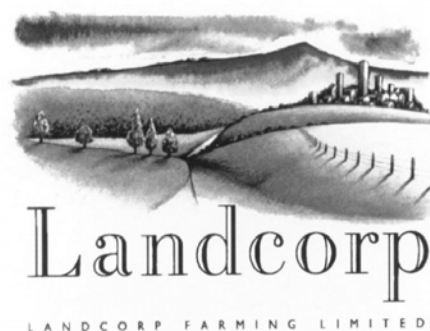
*Richard Dewhurst*  
NZSAP President

## NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2008 LANDCORP LECTURE

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Nominations for a presenter of the 2008 Landcorp Lecture are being sought. The nominee should be distinguished within the field of animal production science, and able to enhance the scientific and technical merit of the 2008 Conference. The Landcorp Lecture is considered a prestigious award and recipients will be considered guests of the Society at the Conference with all fares and accommodation paid for by the Society. Nominations should be in writing to the Secretary and include signatures of at least two financial members. The nominee need not be a member. Nominations must demonstrate that the nominee is "distinguished" and able to contribute accordingly to the Conference. **Nominations close Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.**

*Penny Back, NZSAP Secretary*



## JOINT 2008 NZSAP/ASAP CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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A basic outline of the draft program with the invited plenary speakers and contract sessions:

### From Science to Application

#### ***Theme 1: Post genomics: where to and how to apply genomic information in livestock systems***

- Application of microbial genomic function in the post-genomic era to livestock systems. **G. Attwood (NZ)**
- The application of gene expression studies in livestock production systems. **I. Cassar-Mallek (France)**
- Linking rumen function to animal response by application of genomic function. **D. Firkins (USA)**

#### ***Theme 2: Specific smart technologies for livestock systems***

- The new tools to alter monitoring and management of animals. **D. Henry (Aust)**
- Smart foods from animals. **W. McNabb (NZ)**

#### ***Theme 3: Transformational changes in livestock systems***

- The manipulation of diet selection cues of ruminants to enhance livestock performance at pasture. **G. Edwards (NZ) The Harry Stobbs Lecture**
- Climate change and its effect on livestock systems. **M. Howden (Aust)**
- Developing and evaluating new feed base systems. **L. Bell (Aust)**
- Development of livestock systems : lessons learnt from ACIAR. **W. Winter (Aust)**

#### ***Theme 4: Reproductive and in utero effects on livestock performance***

- Reproductive inefficiencies and opportunities in beef and dairy cattle. **M. McGowan and R. Holroyd (Aust)**
- In utero effects on livestock development and reproduction. **J. Brameld (UK)**

#### ***Theme 5: Animal welfare and animal production in Australasia: conflict or synergy from a global perspective***

- Industry requirements and response to meet welfare and consumer expectations. **M. Edge (Aust)**
- Methodologies by which to study and evaluate welfare issues which face livestock systems of production. **L. Matthews (NZ)**

There is plenty of time allocated for short oral and poster presentations of original work, in addition to the plenary lectures above. The aim is where possible and appropriate, sessions between ASAP and NZSAP members are mixed to stimulate the cross-Tasman exchange that we seek with this inaugural joint meeting between our two Animal Production Societies. In addition, on Day 3 of the conference, a range of field trips will be available for delegates to experience issues related to various Queensland farming systems.

So come and join us in sunny Queensland!

## NZSAP WEBSITE

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Details of next years conference are available on the website at <http://nzsap.org.nz/con08/index.html>

Papers from last years Conference can be viewed on the website as well as information about Awards and Grants. Past Newsletters can also be retrieved. Please let Scott know if you have any news that you think is relevant to NZSAP and should be posted on this site.

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF ABSTRACTS**

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An abstract is the basis on which the Management Committee accepts or rejects your offer of a paper for presentation at the Conference. You will increase your chance of acceptance by complying with these guidelines. The abstract should be self-contained, readable and easily understood by people not intimately involved in the field. You should emphasise not just the science of your work but also the value of it to the science and/or farming communities you are serving. The abstract should contain clear objectives, appropriate data (with statistical parameters such as standard error of means or probability estimates) and conclusions as appropriate. Unnecessary jargon and abbreviations, and information not relevant to the objectives and conclusions should be avoided.

There is no requirement to be a member to present at the conference, but only members will be considered for the Young Member Award

1. **Download the 2008 Abstract Submission form** (don't use previous templates!!) and complete all details. Be sure to get your e-mail address right as future communications will be via e-mail (we typically have problems because corresponding authors are too sloppy to give their correct e-mail address!)
2. **Email the completed abstract to the Executive secretary, Dr Jane Kay: [nzsap.animal@cxtra.co.nz](mailto:nzsap.animal@cxtra.co.nz) by Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2007**
3. **Follow up on this if you have any doubts as to whether or not the abstract was sent**
4. Management Committee will meet to assess the abstracts in late November and corresponding authors will be notified in early December whether their paper has been accepted, accept subject to revision, or rejected.

Please ensure that:

1. The title and names of all authors are provided.
2. The name, address, phone, fax number and email address of the corresponding author are given to facilitate contact regarding your submission.
3. The abstract is set (excluding title and authors) in 12 point Times Roman. A maximum of **350 words** is allowed. **Do not include tables, equations or references.**
4. If possible please submit the abstract electronically to the Executive Secretary. The abstract form can be downloaded from the website <http://nzsap.org.nz/con08/ab-frm08.rtf> or requested from the Secretary. E-mail the abstract to [nzsap.animal@xtra.co.nz](mailto:nzsap.animal@xtra.co.nz). The abstract may be mailed to the Executive Secretary if you do not have access to e-mail.
5. **Abstracts must be received by Friday 2 November 2007.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

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A warm welcome on behalf of NZSAP to our new members:

DR ELAINE KINSTON  
DAVE WARBURTON  
KIRO PETROVSKI

DR PHIL BEATSON  
KATHRYN MAUNDER  
JIM VIENT

Current Membership Total is 508.

## **ROYAL SOCIETY'S NZ SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MEDAL AWARDED TO DR JOHN SMITH \_\_\_\_\_**

NZSAP has just received a letter from the Royal Society of New Zealand notifying us that the NZSAP supported nomination of Dr John Smith for a NZ Science and Technology Medal from the RSNZ has been successful!

NZ Science & Technology Medal is administered by the RSNZ on behalf of the NZ Govt. It recognises and honours those who have made exceptional contributions to NZ society and culture, through science, etc. The medal has the head of Earnest Lord Rutherford and comes in a framed citation.

Some extracts from the nomination:

*Dr Smith has been a leading researcher in pastoral agricultural science in New Zealand for 35 years. His extensive publication record of 192 refereed papers and more than 140 other significant publications has covered a variety of research topics including synchronisation of oestrus (cattle, sheep, deer), sheep and cattle Artificial Insemination, nutritional effects on ovulation rate in sheep, responses to steroid immunisation in sheep, seasonality of reproduction, infertility effects of phyto-oestrogens, semen diluents and more recently his innovative research into the cryopreservation and artificial breeding of shellfish.*

*Much of this work has aided decision making for routine farm management practices associated with reproduction, both natural and artificially augmented, in the three main farmed species. During his career Dr Smith has been heavily involved with the NZ Dairy and Sheep industries, veterinarians, animal breeding companies and farmers, both as a consultant and applying oestrus synchronisation and semen biotechnologies for animal breeding.*

*Dr Smith has been a member of the International Advisory Panel of the Journal 'Reproduction, Fertility and Development' since 1995 and a member of the International Editorial Advisory Board for 'Animal Reproduction Science' since 1998. He received a Trimble Agricultural Research Award in 1983 and a travel award from the Japan Academy of Animal Science in the same year. He has been a recipient of the NZ Society of Animal Production's Animal Science Award four times and a travel award from the Society's Jubilee Fund once.*

*In recent years, quite outside his scientist role John has made a major contribution to Animal Welfare. In addition to his role as Chair of the AgResearch Ruakura Animal Ethics Committee, he has been the company Animal Ethics coordinator for AgResearch.*

*In his role as company Animal Ethics co-ordinator, John Smith has pro-actively undertaken an extensive education programme to raise awareness of the Animal Welfare and associated Acts among both AgResearch staff and staff of the many Organisations that use AgResearch's Code of Ethical Conduct (CEC). These Acts legislate on behalf of the animals used in experimentation, the public's interest in the welfare of those animals and the regulatory control of introducing animals into the food chain. It is the result of John Smith's major contribution that these large and disparate organisations are able to successfully meet their compliance responsibilities to protect the public's interest in the welfare of animals used in this field of research.*

*John Smith is NZSAP's most prolific contributing author, with an average of 2.4 papers per conference since 1974. John has also made a major impact on the management of the NZSAP in various roles.*

*In addition to the visible work that he has done for the New Zealand Society of Animal Production, John Smith has had a profound impact on many of the members of that Society over a considerable number of years. He has always mentored, and acknowledged, young scientists and technicians. Many current members of the New Zealand Animal Science community (young and now not so young) recognise the positive effect that John has had and continues to have on their careers.*

*Throughout his own distinguished career, Dr Smith has had an uncanny ability to initiate, stimulate and occasionally terminate debate within his chosen scientific discipline. He has never been afraid to speak his mind nor to disagree with individuals, concepts, precepts or hypotheses. He is always fair and he is unwaveringly true to his principles.*

*It is in recognition of an outstanding research career, a significant publication record in animal production science, a major contribution to animal welfare aspects of pastoral agriculture research in the Waikato region and his substantial and influential contribution to the careers of many young scientists and technical staff that we nominate Dr John Frederick Smith for a RSNZ New Zealand Science & Technology Medal.*

*Dr James M Suttie and Dr Chris R Burke*

## **TRAVEL AWARD APPLICANTS RECEIVE \$9600 FROM THE JULY 2007 FUNDING ROUND \_\_\_\_\_**

Management Committee and the AgResearch Genomics Award Selection Panel met in August 2007 to consider applications for the NZSAP Animal Science Awards and the AgResearch Animal Genomics International Travel Award respectively.

We are pleased to announce that the following applicants have received funding:

### **NZSAP ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD**

**Joanne Kerslake** (PhD student, IVABS, Massey University, Palmerston North)

To attend and present 2 abstracts at the Aspen Perinatal Biology Symposium "The interaction of maternal, placental, and fetal systems" Aspen, Colorado, USA (25 to 28 Aug 2007). Between 4 and 24 September, Joanne will also be visiting research institutes in England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. This symposium and research visits will provide Joanne with the opportunity to present her current PhD findings and be exposed to new ideas and concepts in perinatal biology. Knowledge and skills will be communicated back to colleagues.

**Dr Eva Wiklund** (Senior Meat Scientist, AgResearch, MIRINZ, Hamilton)

To attend the 12<sup>th</sup> Arctic Ungulate Conference in Yakutsk, Russia in August 2007. Eva will be presenting 2 abstracts at the conference, one on NZ venison quality co-authored with colleagues at Invermay, the other on reindeer meat quality with colleagues in Alaska. Attendance at the conference will allow Eva to maintain contact with colleagues in the global deer/venison network, and will provide opportunities to establish new international collaborations within the venison research area.

### **AGRESEARCH ANIMAL GENOMICS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUND**

**Neil Cullen** (Scientist, AgResearch, Ruakura)

To attend the Association for the Advancement of Animal Breeding and Genetics (AAABG) biennial conference in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia from Sept 23-26<sup>th</sup> 2007. Neil is co-author of the paper "The AgResearch/University of Adelaide QTL Study of Carcass Composition and Meat Quality Traits in Beef Cattle" (first author - Dr Chris Morris) which summarises a major part of Neil's work for the last 10 years. The conference spans the areas of both quantitative genetics and molecular genetics, and the joint use of both technologies. The conference is seen as the best available forum for learning more about applying quantitative and molecular genetics/genomic principles to the commercial cattle industry. Neil has attended the last 3 AAABG conferences, including being on the organising committee for the 1990 conference. Attendance at the 2007 conference will provide a valuable opportunity to stay in touch with other researchers in the field as well as make new contacts.

**Gemma Payne** (Research Associate, Animal Genomics, AgResearch, Mosgiel)

To attend the Plant and Animal Genome conference in San Diego while en route to the Baylor College of Medicine, USA, in January 2008. AgResearch is part of the International Sheep Genomics Consortium (ISGC) and is charged with the responsibility of sequencing the genome of 3 sheep (with Baylor College of Medicine, USA sequencing another 3) using a recently purchased 454 FLX sequencer. Gemma will be involved with the sequencer training occurring at the University of Otago in late July 2007. The application to the travel fund is to allow Gemma to travel to the Baylor College of Medicine to participate in discussions with researchers there. The 454 FLX sequencer is based on relatively new technology and the visit will allow important communication between the two labs carrying out the sheep genome sequencing. This will allow skills to be brought back to NZ to increase the performance and success of the 454 sequencing in NZ. En route to Baylor, Gemma will be presenting a poster at the ISGC annual meeting.

Applications for the next round of travel awards closes on **31 January 2008**. Details on the NZSAP website and application forms from the Executive Secretary.

## COMING EVENTS OF NOTE

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### ROYAL SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM: Working across Boundaries---Science Industry in Society.

16 October 2007, Lecture Theatre 2, Rutherford House, Wellington.

The Royal Society aims to promote a critical awareness of science and technology in industry and society. This symposium will support that aim by bringing together participants from science-based industries, research organisations and policy bodies to focus on major issues shared by these groups in relation to the development, commercialisation and subsequent adoption of new technologies.

For more information and to register, please see [www.rsnz.org/events/boundaries07](http://www.rsnz.org/events/boundaries07)

## AWARDS APPLICATIONS

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- 31<sup>st</sup> January – Animal Science Award Applications to Executive Secretary
- 31<sup>st</sup> January - AgResearch Animal Genomics Award applications to Executive Secretary

The **Animal Science Award** is to promote and advance Animal Science and Production. Specifically it encourages early career development and supports contact with AAAP activities. Applicants must normally have been a member of NZSAP for at least one year prior to application and be a current financial member. Applications are to be sent to the Executive Secretary by 31<sup>st</sup> July for consideration by the management committee in August/September.

The objectives of the **AgResearch Animal Genomics Award** are to facilitate research in the wider field of animal genomics including gene discovery, gene function (physiology) and gene inheritance (animal breeding) studies. In particular, the Award is intended to support conference travel and/or the acquisition of new technical skills by technicians and research associates.

Application forms are available from the Executive Secretary, or on the website <http://nzsap.org.nz>

## McMEEKAN AND SIR ARTHUR WARD AWARDS AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP

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The **McMeekan Memorial Award** recognises an outstanding individual contribution made to New Zealand animal production and/or the Society, during the previous five years. Nominations must be signed by two financial members of the Society and must contain documented evidence of the way or ways in which the nominee's efforts have made an outstanding contribution to New Zealand animal production and/or the Society during the five years before the nomination. A potential recipient need not be a current member of the Society. The Award is in honour of Dr C P McMeekan a foundation member, past president, life member and distinguished leader in animal production, research and administration in New Zealand and the world.

The **Sir Arthur Ward Award** recognises the successful application of scientific research or farmer experimentation through a series of trials or effective extension when applied to an aspect of animal production in New Zealand. The nominee may be an individual, a company or an organisation, and need not be a member of the Society. Nominations must be signed by two financial members of the Society and must contain documented evidence of how the nominee's efforts have made a substantial contribution towards the adoption of a practice(s) that has facilitated more efficient animal production in terms of output per animal, per labour unit or per farm. The phrase "adoption of a practice" is to be broadly interpreted and may relate to the development of a technique, a piece of equipment, or a husbandry practice; the effective encouragement of sound principles of animal production; or the development of a new aspect of animal production.

The Management Committee is also seeking recommendations for the conferment of **Honorary Life Membership**. The Committee shall consider recommendations from members and a formal nomination will be read at the 2006 Annual General Meeting. **Honorary Life Members** shall be persons who have rendered significant service to the cause of animal production. Last year Life Membership was been conferred on John Smith and Jock Macmillan.

Nominations for these awards should be sent to the Executive Secretary, Lynne Smith, by **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008**

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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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: Aaron Meikle, Meat and Wool New Zealand,  
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