

HI All

I always try to fill this bit of the newsletter with some current event, but this time I am torn between the Scampi Scandal about the free lunch and Immuneovich or the Brash Bash. Now that I think about it - what was driving them both? Well, ocean type aquatic resources and who has the right to exploit them. I say exploit, because I don't mean manage! You see I just read a book that everybody was telling me I should read called *The Future Eaters* by Tim Flannery. Tim's thesis, particularly about this part of the world, is that we have irreversibly eaten into our future, and although I am a very critical sort of a person I cannot help but agree. He basically shows that people steadily made their way across the pacific, exploiting the new islands they came across and growing massively in population, then they ran out of resources and either moved on to a new land or turned to cannibalism for protein.

How does this relate to the foreshore or the scampi trawler. Well it is my own personal opinion that we have basically run out of farmland we can exploit. I say exploit because I don't mean manage! Indeed my hypocrisy runs deep. I once drove a tractor around south eastern South Australia, the homeland of the Narrindjeri, turning 3000 year old mallee trees into pasture and then spent the next 25 years watching the sand blow away and the weeds take over from the lucerne. So I feel well qualified to talk about exploitation. I can see, from my regrettable course of action, that I tested Tim Flannery's hypothesis in my own backyard. In this very newsletter, on a previous occasion I applauded John Smith for moving into the new frontier of aquaculture. After reading *The Future Eaters* I just wonder if I am too short-sighted? Is that new frontier or last frontier? Jeepers, are we lucky that NASA has landed on Mars, now we have a new land to exploit.

Anyway, we are still seeking a volunteer for the Publications Manager in particular but there are other positions on the Management Committee. Can you please find some volunteers and sign them up on the WHITE form and send them to the Executive Secretary, DON'T confuse with the BLUE or YELLOW forms.

The **64th Conference** of the Society is going to be up in Hamilton, from **Monday 28th June to Thursday 1st July 2004**. The organising committee, headed by Eric Kolver, have invited us to the Dexcel campus. The BLUE registration form is contained in this newsletter so send it to the conference organisers.

NZSAP 2004 Annual Conference
The Conference Company
PO Box 90040
Auckland

Membership subscriptions are due now so send them in on the YELLOW form to the Executive secretary (not to the conference organisers).

See you at the conference!

Scobie

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the author and not necessarily those of the NZSAP.

PRESIDENTIAL COMMENT

It doesn't seem like that long since the last time that the Editor of this fine publication was filling my email inbox with requests for a paragraph from the President. However, quite a lot has happened over that period so this newsletter is quite timely to make you aware of all the developments.

We heard in January that Livestock Improvement Corporation had decided not to continue with their sponsorship of the LIC Lecture. Over the eight years that LIC has sponsored this lecture, we have had an excellent range of speakers and topics and the lecture has always been a highlight of the conference. I have written to LIC on behalf of the Society and sincerely thanked them for the tremendous support that they have provided over the years. The management committee were eager to continue with a scholarly address at the annual conference, and have sought another sponsor for the lecture. So I am very happy to announce that this year we will have the first Landcorp Farming Ltd Lecture. Landcorp have been a long term sponsor of the Society and have kindly agreed to sponsor the lecture.

It gives me even more pleasure to announce a new award. Over the past few month, we have been negotiating with AgResearch's Animal Genomics Platform to establish the AgResearch Animal Genomics International Travel Fund. We have received \$150,000 from AgResearch to invest, with the interest going to support conference travel or the acquisition of new technical skills by technicians and research associates. More information on the new award is given elsewhere in the newsletter.

Finally, I can report that we are progressing well in getting the NZSAP annual proceedings into the SciQuest system. The process involves loading all of the titles, authors, abstracts and keywords into SciQuest so that their very advance and user friendly search engine can be used. The abstracts are almost complete and the indexing on keywords is well advanced so hopefully we will be able to announce that the system goes live in the next few months. I will give a detailed run down on the use of SciQuest when the NZSAP proceedings are on line, but if you are curious and want a preview, go to www.sciquest.org.nz and you use the search engine on the NZ Vet Journal.

Neville Jopson

The Society is grateful for the sponsorship provided by



Landcorp
LANDCORP FARMING LIMITED

NZSAP INNOVATION AWARD (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

The NZSAP Innovation Award recognises the paper presented at the annual conference which in the view of the judging panel represents the greatest advance in science and/or technology for animal production. All papers presented at the annual conference are eligible for the Award.

AGRESEARCH ANIMAL GENOMICS INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL FUND

We have great pleasure announcing a new award. The award is called the AgResearch Animal Genomics International Travel Fund, and as the name suggests, AgResearch's Animal Genomics Platform have provided a capital sum of \$150,000. Intellectual property was sold by AgResearch to Ovita and the money that NZSAP will administer represents the Animal Genomics share from that sale. It was the desire of Animal Genomics to ensure that this windfall would provide an enduring benefit to the field. The entire sum will be invested and the return on investment used to fund the awards, just as we do with all our other awards.

The objectives of the 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. As most of you will be aware, the NZSAP has grants available through the NZSAP Animal Science Award. These are mostly used to support travel to international conferences and most of the applicants are scientists and PhD students. This new award fills a hole in that it is aimed at providing support to encourage technical staff to attend international conferences or exchanges with other groups to pick up new skills so please bring it to the attention of appropriate people.

The regulations for the award will be posted on the website in the near future. A call will be made for applications for the new award through the NZSAP newsletter.

NZSAP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004

Welcome to the Waikato! The NZSAP Conference returns to Hamilton for 2004 with a new venue, a top line up of speakers, and a stimulating field trip. The unique health properties of Waikato's winter fog comes as an added bonus. The conference starts at noon on Monday 28th June and finishes at noon on Thursday 1st July, giving those of you traveling from the southern extremities of the country time to fly in and out.

Registration

Full conference registration includes the Contract Sessions, all conference catering, the Field Trip and Conference Dinner. Registration can also be made just to attend the contract sessions or on a daily basis. The attached registration and accommodation form is due by **May 27th** 2004. Your early registration will help with conference organisation. Mail or fax the registration form to: NZSAP 2004 Annual Conference, The Conference Company, PO Box 90040, Auckland.

Venue

The Newstead campus of Livestock Improvement Corporation and Dexcel (5 km from Ruakura) will host the conference in the new Tempero Centre. The Centre has a great lecture room, and bar and social facilities.

Programme

Registration will occur between 11.30 am and 12.50 pm on Monday, with lunch provided (it's always good to start a conference on the right note!). We have an outstanding number of papers to be presented (70) covering medical science, and dairy, sheep, beef, goat and horse production.

Special sessions include a microarray session and biomedical contract session on Monday and the Young Members Session and dairy technology contract session on Tuesday. On Wednesday morning concurrent dairy and sheep sessions will operate, with the field trip in the afternoon. The AGM will be held on Thursday morning followed by concurrent dairy and beef, and sheep sessions with a midday finish to the conference (no lunch catered for).

Conference convenor

Eric Kolver

07 858 3789

eric.kolver@dexcel.co.nz

CONTRACT SESSIONS

The Centre of Excellence for Growth and Development Contract Session (Monday afternoon)

This unique session brings together human health and agricultural production researchers. Many of the animal models that animal production researchers use are of great interest to medical research, and the medical researchers have models of extreme genetic variation which are of interest to animal production.

The aim of this session is to form partnerships between these two fields. Speakers will present studies of the influence of early development on lifetime outcomes across agriculture and health as an example of how researchers are using different approaches to investigate a similar subject. The presenters will be from the Centre of Research Excellence (Liggins Institute at the University of Auckland, Massey University, University of Otago, and AgResearch) and Dexcel.

Dr Jane Harding (Liggins) will open the session presenting work on the inter uterine growth retardation model, Prof Matt Lucy (University of Missouri/Dexcel) will compare mechanisms of diabetic states using human and dairy cow models, and Dr Mark Vickers (Liggins) will discuss models of satiety. Pre and post natal growth and the implications for human health will be examined using sheep models (Prof Tom Barry, Massey), beef models (Dr Chris Morris, AgResearch) and deer work (Dr Geoff Asher, AgResearch). Prof Wayne Cutfield (Liggins) will present new investigations on the impact of *in vitro* fertilisation procedures on development of children.

Refreshments will be served following this session to allow time for medical and animal production researchers to explore further opportunities and common interests.

Dairy technology contract session (Tuesday afternoon)

Several very significant research projects are currently happening in New Zealand that will affect the dairy industry in the next ten years. This session highlights some of the technologies in the R&D pipeline, examines what the impact on industry will be, and what these technologies mean for the way we do animal production research.

Prof John McRae from the Rowett is the Landcorp speaker who will open this session giving a world view of some of the new technologies and challenges. Dr John McEwan (AgResearch) will describe the bovine genome project and what the project means for New Zealand, Dr Richard Spelman (Livestock Improvement Corporation) will update us on the QTL trial at Taranaki, and Dr Bill Montgomery will describe the future genetic progress of dairy cattle and the implications for the industry.

On the plant side of the equation, Dr Kieran Elborough (ViaLactia Biosciences) will explore the advances in forage production and the implications for the dairy industry (and other pastoral industries), and Mr Ian Williams (Genetic Technologies, Pioneer) will present recent advances in maize hybrid technology. To wrap up the session, Mr Stuart Gordon (LIC) will describe the technologies in the LIC R&D pipeline, and Dr John Caradus (Dexcel) will speak on the integration of these technologies into farm systems.

Field trip and Annual Dinner

The field trip this year is being sponsored by Telford Rural Polytechnic. On Wednesday afternoon we visit arguably two of the world's most exciting research sites. The Dexcel Greenfields Project is New Zealand's first automated dairy farm where you can watch cows leisurely walk from the paddock to the dairy for automatic milking. Just down the road at Ruakura we visit the Transgenic Facility where you can see cattle that represent the very best in transgenic and cloning science. Then it's onto Sir Patrick and Lady Justine Hogan's Cambridge Stud, home of New Zealand's finest racehorse genetics.

The fieldtrip ends at The Narrows Landing (near Hamilton Airport) where the conference dinner will be held. After dinner the NZSAP Society Awards will be presented, followed by an evening of memorable entertainment. At the end of the evening buses will take delegates back to Newstead and to the Ventura Inn.

Social programme

On Monday, drinks and nibbles at the Tempero Centre will follow the Biomedical contract session (5:00pm – 6:30pm). Start your Tuesday evening at the Waikato Museum's NASA, MIT, Ruakura Innovation Exhibition, where we will have refreshments (6:30pm – 7:30pm). The conference dinner on Wednesday evening follows the field trip and will be held at The Narrows Landing, a secluded restaurant 5 minutes from Hamilton (5:00pm – approx. 10:30pm).

ACCOMMODATION

Block bookings have been made at the Ventura Inn & Suites, a new motor inn located in the city's south end, and only metres from the best restaurants, cafes, entertainment and attractions. The Ventura is a 10-15 minute drive from the conference at Newstead. There will be bus transport between the Ventura and the conference at Newstead for those of you that do not have access to a vehicle.

Making a Reservation

Bookings should be made on the registration form by **27 May 2004**. After that date no guarantee can be made that rooms will be available. To secure your reservation, payment of one night's room rate by cheque is required, or you may supply your credit card details to guarantee the booking.

Changing your Reservation

Please advise The Conference Company of any change to a reservation rather than contacting the Ventura direct. Your NZ Society of Animal Production Conference co-ordinator is **Sarah Govenlock**.

Telephone: (09) 360 1240

Email: nzsap@tcc.co.nz

Fax: (09) 360 1242

Canceling your Reservation

If you cancel your accommodation booking prior to **27 May 2004** your accommodation deposit will be refunded in full. After that date, refunds may be subject to cancellation charges levied by the hotel.

Early Access

If you have an early morning arrival and require an early check-in, you will need to reserve your room for the previous night. If you are flying in on Monday morning, you can store your bags at the Ventura, or bring them straight to the conference and we will store them for you.

Ventura Inn & Suites

Ventura Inn & Suites is at the southern end of the main street. It is a five-minute walk to shops and restaurants. A laundry is available for guests and local phone calls are free of charge. Studio rooms have tea and coffee making facilities. Standard suites have a kitchenette while deluxe suites have a full kitchen and spa bath. All room rates include a continental breakfast.

Standard Studio:

Single/double occupancy
Twin occupancy

\$99 incl GST per night
Queen bed
Queen + Single bed

Deluxe Studio:

Single/double occupancy

\$110 incl GST per night
King bed

One bedroom Standard Suite:

Single/double occupancy
Twin occupancy
lounge

\$125 incl GST per night single/double occupancy
\$145 incl GST per night twin occupancy
King bed

King bed in bedroom, sofa bed in

One bedroom Deluxe Suite:

Single/double occupancy
Twin occupancy

\$135 incl GST per night single/double occupancy
\$155 incl GST per night twin occupancy

King bed

King bed in bedroom, sofa bed in lounge

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

Conference Venue at Newstead

07 856 0700

Hamilton Visitor Information

07 839 3580

Hamilton Taxis

0800 477 477

The Cab Company

0800 4 TAXIS

The Conference Company

09 360 1240

Ventura Inn & Suites Hamilton
(23 Clarence St)

07 838 0110

Programme Outline

	Monday 28 June	Tuesday 29 June	Wednesday 30 June	Thursday 1 July
Morning		Presidential Address Young Members Session	Concurrent Dairy and Sheep Sessions Dairy: Rearing & Reproduction Mammarys, Milk & Methane Sheep: Feeding & Farming Behaviour & Health Meat & Mating	AGM Concurrent Dairy & Beef, and Sheep Sessions Dairy & Beef: Feed & Farm Systems Reproduction Sheep: Fleece & Flies Conference Finish
Afternoon	Conference Opening Microarray Session Biomedical Contract	Dairy Technology Contract	Field Trip	
Evening	Welcome drinks	Drinks at Waikato Museum	Conference Dinner	

EDITORS UPDATE

As at 23rd March, 51 referees' reports recommended that papers be accepted with relatively minor changes, 22 reports required major revisions, 5 reports indicated papers should be rejected, and 16 reports were overdue.

Before submitting final documents, authors should consult the document "Format for Electronic transfer of papers presented at NZSAP meetings" (sent to corresponding authors and available on the website). In the case of withdrawal of a paper, the author must advise the Secretary in writing at the earliest possible date.

Sam Peterson

REMEMBER	01 April	RECEIPT of CONTRACT papers
	10 April	RECEIPT of REWRITTEN papers (for return to referees)
	12 April	RECEIPT of REVISED papers and OBITUARIES
	10 May	Completion of Setting
	14 May	Galleys returned to Authors
	24 May	FINAL REVISIONS DUE
	01 June	Proceedings to Printer
	25 June	CONFERENCE

2004 AGM AGENDA

The 64th Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Animal Production Inc. will be held on the morning of Thursday 1st July 2004 at the Newstead campus of Livestock Improvement Corporation and Dexcel

Agenda

Apologies
Minutes from 2003 meeting
Matters arising
Presidential report
Treasurer's report
Editor's report
Election of officers
General business

Signed: Executive Secretary

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NZSAP 25 JUNE 2003

Copthorne Hotel, Queenstown, President (Catherine Morrow) declared meeting open 5:15 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Forty seven members in attendance. Minute Secretary Roland Sumner.

1. APOLOGIES

Jock Allison, Clare Callow, Paul Charteris, Denis Elvidge, John McEwan, Jock Macmillan, Geoff Nicoll, Gwyn Verkerk.

Moved Morrow/ Smith. Carried.

2. PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the 2002 AGM Minutes be signed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Moved Shackell/ Jopson. Carried.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None.

4. PRESIDENTS REPORT

Key points.

- Current membership 514 – 11 more than last year. An obituary for Prof. I.L. Campbell (Honorary Life Member) is printed in the 2003 Proceedings and the recent passing of Prof. D.A. Ross was recorded.
- Sympathy extended to the families and colleagues of the seven staff from Crop and Food Research Ltd who were killed in a plane crash near Christchurch Airport on 6 June 2003.
- Dr K.L. (Jock) Macmillan was awarded an Honorary DSc by Massey University in 2003.
- Awards
 - 2002 NZSAP Young Member Award – Jane K. Kay.
 - 2002 NZSAP Innovation Award (Science and Technology) – D.R. Scobie and D. O'Connell for their paper entitled "Genetic reduction of tail length in New Zealand sheep".
 - 2003 NZSAP Jubilee University Awards – Gavin O. Neumann (Massey) and. Hayden R. Peter (Lincoln).
 - 2003 Lincoln University Centennial Award – No award.
 - 2003 LIC Lecture presented by Dr Bruce Thorrold, Dexcel Ltd., Hamilton.
- As a result of judicious management of the Society's investments in bonds and capital notes the Society was able to approve applications for seven Animal Science Awards totalling \$16,500 to assist members to attend overseas Conferences during 2002/03. Six of these awards were made to Young Members. The Society also sponsored Dr George Seidel from Colorado State University

as a speaker at the International Embryo Transfer Society Annual Conference held in Auckland in January 2003.

- The Society sponsored the publication of "Profitable Beef Production" edited by D.C. Smeaton on behalf of the New Zealand Beef Council. Copies are available from Meat New Zealand.
- Changes in research funding in recent years have created increasing difficulties for the position of Publication's Manager on the Management Committee. In an attempt to maintain a flow of up-to-date scientific information on animal production related topics to the membership the management Committee is considering employing a person to undertake this work. Unfortunately it will, in the first instance, greatly increase the Society's overhead costs.
- The Society has continued to maintain effective communication with the Royal Society of New Zealand particularly through the Primary Resources Advisory Committee meetings to which we send a delegate.
- During the year Paul Charteris revamped the layout and content of the Society website and instituted a more user-friendly website address. The site is still hosted by the Royal Society of New Zealand.
- Thanks to members of the Management Committee and in particular those who are leaving the Committee namely Mark Fisher who leaves the Management Committee as immediate Past President, John Smith who leaves after 5 years as Treasurer, Sam Peterson who leaves after 4 years as Editor, Paul Charteris our Website Manager who has relocated to Davis University, California, USA and Gwyn Verkerk our Publication's Manager and NZVA liaison person.
- Thanks to the Organising Committee for the current Conference under the chairmanship of Allan Crawford. – the first conference held outside of Wellington and the four "University" centres of Hamilton, Palmerston North, Christchurch and Dunedin. The services of a professional Conference Organiser were engaged this year to ease the workload for the Local Organising Committee. Through appropriate sponsorship it was also possible to reduce the registration costs for Young Members attending the Conference.
- 2004 Conference will be held in the Waikato area.

That the President's report be received.

Moved Morrow/ Smith. Carried.

6. EDITOR'S REPORT

Key points.

- 48 Abstracts accepted, 40 published with 24 additional papers presented in 3 contracted sessions.
- Thanks to authors and those who acted as referees. 23 of 47 raised serious questions about the manuscript they were refereeing and 6 recommended that the manuscript be rejected.
- Large variation in the standard of the submitted manuscripts. Authors requested to adhere to paper length, figure quality and deadline dates.

That the Editor's report be received.

Moved Peterson/ Scobie. Carried.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Nominations received for positions of:-

President	N.B. Jopson
Vice President	R.M.W. Sumner
Secretary	C.R. Burke
Treasurer	C.J. Morrow
Editor of the Proceedings	No nomination
Newsletter Manager	D.R. Scobie
Web Site Manager	J.M. Everett-Hincks
Publications Manager	No nomination
Chairman Conference Committee	E.S. Kolver

There being only one nomination for each position, the nominated persons were declared elected with the incoming Committee having the power to co-opt to fill the existing vacant positions.

Moved Morrow/ Smith. Carried.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Presented.

That the annual financial report as circulated be accepted as a true and accurate record of the Society's accounts.

Moved Smith/ Peterson. Carried.

All Contributory Mortgages have been repaid with no loss of capital. These monies now invested in Bonds and Capital notes.

Graphical presentation of Society's income and expenditure over the past 7 years tabled for discussion.

That the subscription for 2004 be increased to \$65.00 (GST incl.) for Full members, \$32.50 (GST incl.) for Student and Retired members and US\$65.00 for Overseas members (outside New Zealand and Australia).

Moved Smith/ Jopson. Carried.

That KPMG be re-appointed as auditors for the Society accounts.

Moved Smith/ Peterson. Carried.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Advice to membership re SciQuest.

Peter Jolly of the New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA) spoke with respect to a display of SciQuest he staged during the Conference. SciQuest is an electronic platform operated by the NZVA to disseminate information to their membership. The platform contains the complete archive of the New Zealand Veterinary Journal and publications associated with the NZVA Special Interest groups (Companion, Dairy Cattle, Deer, Equine and Sheep & Beef). The NZVA have extended an invitation to the NZSAP to participate in the venture to market our publications and ultimately to collect our subscriptions with payment via credit card. The system will provide a wider accessibility to a world-wide audience than is available through our current system. There will be both establishment and ongoing servicing charges to be borne by the Society.

- Deadlines re Young Member Award.

Current deadlines pertaining to the Young Member Award were considered to not fit with students completing University based projects. Alastair Nicol agreed to present a written submission to the Management Committee of revised deadlines that may better suit the University staff and students.

- Reduced Conference registration costs for students.

Patricia Johnson thanked the Organising Committee of the current conference for offering a "half-price" registration for students.

That future organising Committees give consideration to continuing to offer reduced registration costs for students at future Conferences.

Moved Johnson/ Barnett. Carried.

- 2002 LIC Lecture – J.P.McInerney

Request to the membership to contact the Executive Secretary with respect to ordering a video of the lecture. Cost will be dependent on the number ordered.

Meeting adjourned 6:45 pm.

Meeting re-convened on 26 June 2003 during the Annual Dinner at Golden Gate Cafe, Cromwell at 8:00 pm.

9. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Oration in support of nomination of Kenneth Raymond Drew for Life Membership presented by George Davis. Seconded by Tony Pearse.

Carried by acclamation.

Oration in support of nomination of Denis Graeme Elvidge for Life Membership presented by Alastair Nicol. Seconded by Andrew Sykes and Graham Barrell.

Carried by acclamation.

Oration in support of nomination of Peter Francis Fennessy for Life Membership presented by Mark Fisher. Seconded by Grant Shackell and John Smith.

Carried by acclamation.

Also presented during the Annual Dinner.

2003 McMeekan Memorial Award – John C. McEwan.

2003 Sir Arthur Ward Award – A(Tony) J.T. Pearce.

2003 Young Member Award – Nicola M. Schreurs.

Meeting closed 8:45 pm.

NZSAP AWARD APPLICATIONS

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 should be sent to the Executive Secretary by **31 July 2003** for consideration by the Management Committee in August/September 2002. The application format is available from the Executive Secretary and on the NZSAP website <http://nzsap.rsnz.govt.nz>

ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD REPORTS

Alexandre Vieira Chaves attended the Sixth International Symposium on the Nutrition of Herbivores from 19 to 24 October 2003 in the city of Mérida, state of Yucatán in México. During the symposium, Alexandre visited a technological development center (Tantakin) for cattle and deer. This center was established in 1994 to promote animal production systems and also provides a social service to the community. It is located 140 km from Mérida with mean annual temperature of 26°C and mean rainfall of 1000 mm in the season from June to October. Due to the hot climate, low quality C₄ grass pastures (e.g. Elephant grass: *Pennisetum purpureum*) are used in Yucatán region. They have dual purpose cattle, to produce milk and meat at low cost. On average a Brown Swiss x Zebu cow produces 2000 kg milk per lactation and calves are weaned at 180 – 200 kg live weight. The milk is sent to small dairy factories and processed into cheese and yoghurt. There is no market for fresh milk.

After the conference Alexandre visited the light and sound show at the Mayan archeological site of Uxmal. Uxmal is one of the most well known of the Mayan cities in México, and is rated by many archaeologists as the finest. It was interesting to learn that the entire city was aligned with reference to the position of the planets then known, with Venus predominating, and one of the pyramids was oriented so that its stairway on the west faces the setting sun at the time of summer solstice. Alexandre says it was a fantastic visit!

ANIMAL SCIENCE AWARD REPORTS

Jane Kay, a PhD student with Dexcel and The University of Arizona, attended the American Dairy Science Association meeting in Phoenix during June 2003. During this meeting she presented a paper entitled “**Increasing milk fat cis-9, trans-11 conjugated linoleic acid content in pasture-fed cows**” and a poster entitled “*Effect of vitamin E supplementation in late lactation on milk production and milk fatty acid profile*” both of which were well received and prompted much discussion.

The ADSA meeting represents the largest regular meeting dedicated to dairy science in the world and attracts approximately 3000 delegates each year. In addition to gaining international exposure for New Zealand Dairy Research, attendance at the 2003 ADSA conference allowed Jane to create and renew contacts that have already proved invaluable in establishing research links and providing collaborative partners. One finding of particular interest from the meetings was the exponentially increasing amount of conjugated linoleic acid (CLA) research, focussing on both lipid metabolism and milk composition. It appears that New Zealand is still among the leaders in this research field and that the science conducted at Dexcel has gained international respect.

Following the ADSA conference Jane returned to Tucson to begin her PhD, which is a joint programme between the University of Arizona and Dexcel. Jane hopes that on her return to Dexcel, in 2005, she will bring back important data and knowledge on dairy cow nutrition and milk composition that will benefit both Dexcel and New Zealand dairy farmers, and prove invaluable when proposing future trials, obtaining funding or attracting collaborative research partners.

Jane would like to take this opportunity to thank NZSAP for the Animal Science Award and for the opportunity to attend ADSA 2003. She would also like to encourage other budding Animal Science Researchers in New Zealand to gain international experience and exposure through attending, presenting and networking at major overseas conferences.

Andrew Greer, a PhD student at Lincoln University attended the 19th Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology held in New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A during August 2003. He presented a paper by AW Greer, M Stankiewicz and AR Sykes “Assessing the benefit of the immune response toward *Trichostrongylus colubriformis* in sheep”. The paper suggested the developing immune response is responsible for production losses in young lambs. The presentation was very well received, sparking plenty of informal discussion during the weeklong conference, which allowed the opportunity to make contacts with researchers from other institutions.

The conference itself provided many interesting presentations and symposia, which allowed Andrew the opportunity to learn more about parasitology outside ruminant nematodes. Of particular interest was one session on parasite control on organic European sheep farms that have been encouraged by generous subsidies. Drench usage surveys taken during the last five years show that a vast majority of “organic” farms are still frequently using chemical anthelmintics to treat parasite infections on ethical grounds. The meat can then still be sold as organic by simply doubling the withholding period of the drench. Unfortunately, the survey could not be completed as all of the farmers who did not use any form of chemical treatment went bankrupt in the five-year period. This led to one conclusion that organic farming is sustainable providing the subsidies from the respective governments are increased. Andrew found the conference very educational, and an extremely valuable experience.

Following the conference at New Orleans, Andrew visited Moredun Research Institute in Scotland, where he presented his findings to their parasitological division in addition to inspecting their facilities and research activities. While there, he was involved in collaborative talks with Moredun scientists that will allow the measurement of immunological parameters which are unavailable at Lincoln University. The ultimate goal of the collaboration is to identify the detrimental components of the immune response and explore options for manipulation that farmers in both countries can utilise to reduce the losses caused by parasitism in sheep. Andrew hopes the contacts and collaboration formed as a result will prove to be very fruitful in his future career, and is thankful to the New Zealand Society of Animal Production for their support.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ed: You have to think back now, this letter was dated 19th August 2003 and Take lives in the Northern hemisphere and don't forget it was snowing in Athens just the other day!

Dear Scobie

Something is really happening on the earth. We are supposed to be in the middle of the summer, but what we have day time temperatures of only 20°C in Tokyo . No one goes to beach or swimming pool around here. The pasture for cattle and rice crops for humans seems very poor for harvest in autumn. In contrast with the cold weather in Japan, Europe has extraordinary hot weather.

By the way, it was quite a surprise that my name was on the latest NZSAP newsletter. I have just received it. The description you wrote is correct. It was a long long journey from Tokyo to Christchurch, Auckland then Christchurch again and Queenstown. Just guess how hard it was sitting on the same small seat more than 30 hours!!

Thank you again for caring about me and hope to see you soon in NZ or Japan.

Best Regards
Take Ozawa

BIG BEEF BOOK



Just a reminder that Duncans big beef book is still available. Due to a scrape with this big beef Duncan is not! The book is 220 pages long, is free to all meat levy payers or \$35 incl GST to all others. You may obtain a copy from Duncan through Nadine Shaw at Ngahere reception, Ruakura. Cheques should be made out to: Meat NZ. GST receipts can be provided.



An orderly group making their way purposefully across the field, during the 2003 field trip, courtesy of John Fitzharris



An orderly group listening purposefully in the field, during the 2003 field trip, courtesy of Catherine Morrow. DON'T miss this years field trip.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The **8th International Conference on Goats** will take place in Pretoria, South Africa, from 4 to 9 July 2004. This event will be held under the auspices of the International Goat Association in collaboration with the South African Society for Animal Science and the University of Pretoria. For further information visit the website at www.icgsa.co.za or contact the secretary at icgsa@postino.up.ac.za. Phone: +27 12 420 6029, Fax: +27 12 420 3290.

The 25th Biennial Conference of the **Australian Society of Animal Production** will be held at the University of Melbourne 4 to 8 July 2004. For more about "Animal Production - The New Realities." View the website at www.asap.asn.au/conference25/index.html

New Zealand Grassland Association Annual Conference, 19-21 October 2004 - Grand Chancellor Hotel, Methven, Mid Canterbury. Contact Mick Calder mail@grassland.org.nz <http://www.grassland.org.nz>

International conference on Calf and Heifer rearing. University of Nottingham 22 - 24 March 2004. View the website at www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/ah/calfconf/index.html or contact feed-man-conf@nottingham.ac.uk

International conference on Yields of farmed species. University of Nottingham 14 - 16 June 2004. View the website at www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/ah/yield-conf/index.html or contact feed-man-conf@nottingham.ac.uk

38th Nottingham feed conference. University of Nottingham 14 - 16 September 2004. View the website at www.nottingham.ac.uk/biosciences/feedconf/ or contact feed-man-conf@nottingham.ac.uk



Caption competition for this Newsletter. In 132.5 words or less, provide a caption for this photo from last years field trip to win a plastic sheep sign or a chocolate fish!

Send entries or rather please send entries to your Newsletter mischief maker: address on the back of this booklet.

****MEMBERSHIP FEES****

Members: The 2004 annual subscription is now due!

We had a wee vote at the AGM (see the minutes) and decided we had to move with the times and increase the membership fee to cover the cost of paper and electronic publications we are providing for members. The increase is the equivalent of two hamburgers on the new international currency index. For full members from New Zealand and Australia the fee is now NZ\$65.00 (reduced to NZ\$ 32.50 for students and retired members). Members residing overseas (except Australia) pay US\$65.00.

A personal membership fee invoice is enclosed with this newsletter on the **yellow form**.

Please return this form with your payment. Students must have the form signed by their academic supervisor.

Remember, you can use a credit card. Submit the **Name** on the card; card **Number**; card **Type** and card **Expiry Date** by either mail, fax, or E-mail to the NZSAP Executive Secretary detailing what and who the payment is for and including contact postal addresses and phone/fax numbers etc.

MEMBERSHIP

The New Zealand Society of Animal Production warmly welcomes the following 11 new members:

Ngaio Beausoleil	Massey University	Sandy Chaffey	Marlborough
Kevin Kearney	Oamaru Vet Services	Robb MacBeth	Blenheim
Andrea Rogers	AgResearch, Hamilton	Mike Stephens	Telford Rural Polytechnic
Merick Stankiewicz	Lincoln University	Hugh Stringleman	Auckland University
Kara Swanson	AgResearch, Hamilton	Kumar Vetharaniem	AgResearch, Hamilton
Wishudy Widjaja	Auckland		

Eight members were removed due to unpaid subscriptions, one member passed away and two resigned leaving a current membership of 527.

NOMINATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2004 - 2005

Nominations for committee members are sought by April 30. The nominee, nominator and seconder must be members of the Society. The committee will be elected by postal ballot with the result announced at the Annual General Meeting except that the current Vice-President automatically becomes President, and the current President automatically becomes Immediate Past President.

The management committee of the Society consists of the following:

President	Treasurer
Vice-President	Editor of Proceedings
Immediate Past-President	Publications Manager
Secretary	Web Site Manager
Convenor of the Conference Organising Committee	Newsletter Manager

Presently the committee meets three times each year - immediately before and immediately after the annual conference, and once in December to evaluate abstracts of papers submitted for presentation at the next conference. In addition to that it holds two or three telephone conferences each year. To understand how the various officers contribute to the strategy and operations of the Society, speak to current and past committee members.

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Committee positions for which nominations are requested are: (Circle or highlight one)

Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Editor of Proceedings
Publications Manager
Web Site Manager
Newsletter Manager
Convenor of the Conference Organising Committee

Nominations must be in the hands of the Executive Secretary by 30 April 2004.

Name of Nominee (Print) _____

Signature of Nominee _____

Proposer (Print Name) _____

Signature of Proposer _____

Secunder (Print Name) _____

Signature of Secunder _____

Date _____

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The current Management Committee is:

		Phone	Fax	Email	Location
PRESIDENT	Neville Jopson	03 477 6375	03 477 6376	njopson@abacusbio.co.nz	Abacus Biotech Dunedin
VICE-PRESIDENT	Roland Sumner	07 838 5272	07 838 5117	roland.sumner@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura
PAST-PRESIDENT	Catherine Morrow	07 838 5497	07 838 5628	catherine.morrow@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura
SECRETARY	Chris Burke	07 858 3895	07 858 3751	chris.burke@dexcel.co.nz	Dexcel Hamilton
TREASURER	Catherine Morrow	07 838 5497	07 838 5628	catherine.morrow@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Ruakura
EDITOR	Denis Elvidge	03 355 4214		den.ed@xtra.co.nz	Watford St Christchurch
NEWSLETTER	David Scobie	03 983 3921	03 325 3194	scobie@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Lincoln
PUBLICATIONS	Position vacant				
WEB SITE	Julie Everett-Hincks	03 489 9164	03 489 9024	julie.everett-hincks@agresearch.co.nz	AgResearch Invermay
CONFERENCE	Eric Kolver	07 858 3789	07 858 3751	eric.kolver@dexcel.co.nz	Dexcel Hamilton
EXEC. SEC.	Lynne Smith	07 856 9150	07 856 9150	nzsap.animal@xtra.co.nz	Hamilton

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: David Scobie, AgResearch, PO Box 60, Lincoln. Email: scobie@agresearch.co.nz