

**Australian Society of Animal Production  
Biennial General Meeting 2008**

**Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

**Meeting Opened:** 3.45 PM

**Apologies:**

David Lindsay, Heather Burrow, James Rowe, Peter Wynn, Rebecca Matthews, Haydn Lloyd Davies, Helen Paganoni.

**Attendance:**

Dennis Poppi (Chairman), Mick Tierney (Secretary), Stu McLennan (Treasurer), Robert Herd, David Barber, Pietro Celi, Hugh Dove, Karen Turnbull, Simon Quigley, Athol Klieve, Bill Pattie, Paul Greenwood, Darryl Savage, John Nolan, David Cottle, Chris McSweeney, Dianne Ouwerkerk, Dale Miller, Chris Oldham, Rob Dixon, Nigel Tomkins, Linda Cafe, Leo Cummins, San Jolly, Dave Hopkins, Andrew Williams, Robin Dobos, Malcolm McPhee, Dean Thomas, David Coates, Greg Cronin, Russell Bush, John Milton, Andrew Thompson, Adrian Egan, Peter Doyle, Barry Norton, Doug Pollock, Gordon Dryden, Robin Shorthose.

**Confirmation of Minutes from 2006 BGM**

The minutes of the 2006 BGM, held on 11 July 2006, were received and adopted on the motion of Hugh Dove and Dennis Poppi. There was no business arising from the 2006 minutes.

**President's Report 2008**

The following report was submitted by Dennis Poppi.

The last two years have passed in a whirlwind of activity, initiated originally with the thought that "we have 2 years to go and plenty of time" and ending with the stressful realisation that there are only 2 days to go.

Chris Oldham left us with a number of challenges after the last conference and set in place a platform to solve these.

The key initiatives of the 27<sup>th</sup> Council have been

- We have reviewed and brought the website and associated activities up to date. For this we thank Bill Pattie. This has included establishing the ASAP and conference websites, submission of all papers on the website, regular electronic newsletters, and all Proceedings electronically available on line and through the Livestock Library. In addition, all news and other items are listed.
- We have engaged a professional secretariat service. This group has wide experience in data base management and can be contacted personally to assist members with membership and contacts within the Society. We believe that they will fix up and provide some stability to the recurring problem of the financial status and membership data base. Our current financial membership has thus dropped alarmingly to about 200 members as we have audited our membership list. We are confident that with their customer service we will start enrolling new members and bring back some old members.

- We have looked at what membership of ASAP offers. Currently the key tangible benefit is the biennial conference and the publications with the odd newsletter thrown in. We have borrowed an idea from our kiwi cousins and started a Young Members Travel award, to be offered annually. The details of this are on the website.
- Publication of original work and an independent forum for the discussion of ideas are key features of the activities of the Society. The 26<sup>th</sup> Council initiated a high level publication with AJEA (soon to be Animal Production Science) and we have continued that. We encourage developing this partnership for a period of some years to provide some stability to the conference proceedings and to enter into competitive financial arrangement with the publisher (CSIRO). The cost is high but worth it to maintain a significant independent publication.
- We have continued our own publication, Animal Production in Australia, for the conference abstracts. This is still a valuable means of publication especially by students and we feel strongly that it needs to be maintained and able to be referenced. We would urge members to encourage libraries to continue to stock this publication.
- The process by which Fellows and Honorary Members are nominated and chosen has been broadened to reflect the changes in Branch structure.
- We have joined with the NZ Society of Animal Production to hold the first ever joint conference.
- The Council continues to support AAAP financially and we note that the next meeting is in Vietnam. This organisation continues to get good support at its conference and also in its journal publication and we need to continue to support their work.
- The Council strongly supported the bid by a consortium from Australia to host the next International Grassland Congress.

We believe we have continued to cement the good work of the 26<sup>th</sup> Council in getting our affairs in order. We now have a platform to move forward. So, what of the future? The Society has dropped alarmingly in its financial membership base. There are many reasons for this and getting our own administration less dependent on Branch volunteers will go a long way to fix this. Attracting new members is a necessity but why bother joining? ASAP still provides the only independent forum by which livestock producers and scientists discuss ideas and new developments. Much of the traditional role in this area has been overtaken by the many workshops and other means of communication within our livestock industries. However, the biennial conference provides the only independent forum for this discussion and peer review and more than ever our industries need this forum. The Branches provide a means of encouraging this discussion at a local level and provide a more tangible local presence of the Society to members.

There are two challenges for us.

- We must find a means to attract younger scientists and livestock producers and to provide a purpose for their membership. I'd suggest that this is quite different to the roles envisaged when the Society was first initiated. So, identify a potential young member and join them up. Let's hear what they want from a group such as ASAP.
- Where will the scientists for livestock industries come from? Currently the career structure is not clear cut and other professions seem to offer a better future for our youth. Yet the livestock industries need more than ever a committed scientific

community. Three new schools in Veterinary Science are being created and it is inevitable that they will enroll a large proportion of students who currently take an animal science option. Veterinary Science has its own professional body and I believe that this will impact on the role that ASAP has.

It has been a pleasure to have served in this capacity for the last two years and it is pleasing to see the Armidale group willingly take up the challenge of leading us.

I would like to thank the Federal committee for their support and for the many initiatives of this Council.

### **Secretary's Report 2008**

The following report was submitted by Mick Tierney

I have enjoyed my term as Federal Secretary because my role has been made very easy by the tremendous team of people that have put the conference together over the last two years.

I would particularly thank the following:

Dennis Poppi who has been the driving force throughout as President

Stu McLennan who has kept us all on our toes financially as Treasurer

Dave Barber as editor

Athol Klieve and Chris McSweeney who put together the program

Bill Pattie for his constant guidance and operation of the website

Jackie Kyte and Janine King (JK Connections) for their efforts in the areas of conference registration and membership

Felicity McIntosh and Jackie Kyte who set new records for sponsorship

Barbara Williams and Simon Quigley for arranging all the catering

Kevin Lowe and Richard Moss for arranging the field trips

Barry Norton for all Fellowship matters.

I would also like to thank all those who have assisted in any of the above activities in any way.

If I have missed anyone, it is a genuine mistake and I apologise.

So my role has only been that of "cattle dog" to keep rounding people up and help ensure that all tasks were carried out.

My advice to the incoming Secretary is to ensure that you have a good team around you – I am sure this will be the case.

### **Treasurer's Report 2008**

The following report was submitted by Stu McLennan

The Treasurer reported that the audited reports of the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Federal Councils, prepared by Pascoe, Hudson, Broome and Blythe (chartered accounts, Perth) were received and the balance sheet for the 2005-06 period was tabled. The previous Treasurer, Beth Paganoni, has done a tremendous job in bringing all this together and provided a very good foundation for the 27<sup>th</sup> Federal Council.

The proposed auditors for the 27<sup>th</sup> Federal Council, incorporating the Brisbane conference, are Borgeaud and Co., Brisbane.

The starting balance of the 27<sup>th</sup> Federal Council was \$102,934.21. As at 20 June 2008, there were 222 financial members of ASAP plus 60 Fellows and Honorary Members. There were 199 full registrations for the 27<sup>th</sup> conference and 45 part-conference registrations (by COB 20 June 2008). The total number of registrations is 256, including sponsors and undergraduate students. There are 52 delegates from New Zealand.

Our aim with this conference was to provide a stimulating and challenging program, which included a number of invited speakers from overseas, and to do this at the lowest possible cost for delegates especially in consideration of our colleagues from New Zealand. Our financial aim was to break even given that we carried financial reserves into the conference. We have achieved this partly by undertaking an aggressive sponsorship recruitment, the total sponsorship for this conference being worth about \$60,000. Current indications are that the conference will show a small profit overall. The financial aspects of the society membership and conference sponsorship and delegate registration have been greatly enhanced by the engagement of JK Connections and Bill Pattie in their roles as a conference support team.

The Treasurer's report was received on the motion of Stu McLennan and Bill Pattie.

In reply to a query from Barry Norton, the Treasurer said that he was hoping to have the audited financial reports completed within a few months. Bill Pattie added that the Treasurer's term of office extended till the end of the year.

### **Editor's Report 2008**

Dave Barber reported that there had been 13 invited papers of which 11 were published.

There were 69 four-page papers submitted, of which 51 were accepted. These, together with the invited papers, had been published as a special edition of the Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture at a cost of about \$30,000.

There had been 108 one-page papers submitted, as well as one invited paper. There were 2 withdrawn and 4 rejected. These had been published as a separate volume as well as being available in PDF format on the website at a cost of about \$8,000.

A number of New Zealand papers were also published in the AJEA.

An email based newsletter had been set up.

Chris Oldham asked if we should restrict ourselves to four page papers. The committee had decided not to do this.

### **Website Report 2008**

Bill Pattie submitted the following report.

The ASAP web site supports both the general activities of the Society and the biennial conference. During the period of this Council most of my activities have centered on establishing and managing the website support for the Joint ASAP-NZSAP conference. A significant change from previous years has been the transfer of responsibilities for the ASAP membership database to the new secretariat support team, JKConnections. An additional activity involved refinements in distribution of newsletters. and shorter "newsflash" messages to members and conference delegates.

#### *Conference*

For this ANZSAP conference a new "Content Management System" was established as a trial for future implementation over the whole ASAP web site. This involves an overall template with a range of features that can be accessed and operated by different committee members. For example, the newsletter editor could log in, enter text into a pre-formatted template via a built-in word processor then have it sent directly to the mailing list. The conference system worked well although there was not time to integrate some specialised aspects of editorial support and conference registration. I plan to do this over the next conference period.

As for previous conferences, the web site provided editorial support for receipt of papers, conference registration and receipt of presentations. This time I was not able to edit and prepare the short communications (one-page papers) for printing and Dave Barber did this work.

The short communications (one-page papers) were placed on our web server before the conference and are ready to be integrated into Livestock Library. The invited and full papers together with general ASAP material and new Fellows citations were published in AJEA, also before the conference, will automatically be integrated with the short communications in any searches of Livestock Library.

#### *ASAP*

General ASAP business and membership functions will be integrated with the conference web site by inclusion in the Content Management System using an extended template. Once established the various functions can be managed by the Secretariat and committee members as needed. This will provide for continuity if I am not able to maintain my level of support in future.

A significant change from previous years is the change in management of the membership register. The previous "self-help" fully on-line system was not successful and became out of date and difficult to maintain. In addition, it appeared to be rather impersonal, particularly for new members. Counsel decided to retain JKConnections to

manage membership matters which includes both on-line and direct postal membership renewal payments, new member applications, publicity and enquiries. The modified on-line component has been established on the web site.

For this period, newsletters and shorter “newsflash” messages were distributed to members and conference delegates which opened directly in HTML format in the receivers' mail client. They were also posted on the web site. Feedback from members indicated that this method was well received. It will be continued but be modifies so that members can opt to receive plain text versions.

#### *Acknowledgements*

I would like to thank the President, Council members and the Secretariat for their continued support of the web site and I am particularly grateful to Mick Tierney, Dave Barber, Janine King and Jackie Kyte for their encouragement, ideas and assistance over the last two years.

#### **Fellows and Honorary Members**

The 2008 Fellows were announced as:

David Coates  
Hugh Dove  
Peter Doyle  
Adrian Egan  
Chris Oldham

Barry Norton submitted proposals to simplify the procedures for the election of Fellows and Honorary Members. Because of the number of inactive branches there was a need to call nominations from individual members.

The method used for the 2008 conference was:

1. The Award of Fellow of the Australian Society of Animal Production shall be made on behalf of the Society by the President on the advice of the Fellowship Committee which shall consist of the President (Chair) and up to 8 Fellows, one from each State, who are currently active or recently retired. The Fellows on this Committee should be selected by the President from nominations from State and Territory Branches, and the meeting will be conducted by electronic communication.
2. Nominations for Fellows and Honorary Members should be called from the Branches, current ASAP members (where no branches are representing) and Fellows by advertising on the website and by direct emails to Branches, members and Fellows. All nominees should be current or joining members of ASAP to be eligible.
3. All nominations should be forwarded to the President with a brief case (300 words) made for each nominee and a date should be set for the final receipt of all nominations.

4. The ASAP Fellows Committee should then meet to select up to 5 recipients worthy of the award of Fellows of the Australian Society of Animal Production and up to 2 recipients of the award of Honorary Member, and that all current Fellows be invited by mail/email to comment on these final selections.
5. When agreement is reached on the final selection of candidates, each candidate will be advised of their nomination, and asked to provide a recent photo and biographical statement to the Committee, to which will be added comments by the Committee on the extent and significance of the contributions that these candidates have made to ASAP and Australian animal production. The ASAP Fellows Committee will then be responsible for the one-page statement that is presented in the ASAP Proceedings.

Timelines were very important throughout the whole process.

There were no nominations for Honorary Members.

Adrian Egan spoke on the process to involve those from outside active branches.

### **New Federal Committee**

The proposed Federal Committee from New England was:

President Elect

Robert Herd

Vice-President

Robyn Dobos

Treasurer

Jane Lamb

Secretary

the committee is canvassing options.

Liaison Officer

The committee is canvassing options.

Publicity Officer

Brad Walmsley

Other Committee Members

Emma Doyle, Robert Kelly, Abbey Graham, Joy Dempsey, James Rathburne, Garath Kelly, Tim Elliot, Drewe Ferguson, Kristy Cooper, Clancy Rose

These nominations were accepted, in bulk, on the motion of Paul Greenwood and Mick Tierney.

Paul said that it had been attempted to include all major organizations and sectors.

**Robert Herd took the Chair** and thanked members for their support. He also thanked the outgoing Committee for their efforts.

### **Motion to increase the Federal Subscription fee for ASAP**

Proposed: Dennis Poppi

Seconder: Stuart McLennan

Motion: The federal subscription fee be increased by \$30 to \$110 plus GST **for two years** subscription starting in the year 2010.

#### Background

The Federal subscription fee was raised some time ago, at least 10 years ago, and it is now time look at this again.

Some issues have arisen which necessitate this

- At the biennial general meeting (BGM) in Perth in 2006 it was passed that subscription fees to the Society would be paid every 2 years in the year of the biennial meeting. This has made our system much easier to administer. Unfortunately it means that Federal Council cannot respond to financial changes and can only respond every second year.
- The Branch membership fees will stay the same so for most members the current total fee with GST is \$110 and this will now increase in 2010 to \$143. Some regions do not have Branches and only pay the Federal fee.
- We have taken on a new membership data base service which is very competitive but costs need to be met. This new service has got a much better delivery service in place and has upgraded the data base.
- Bill Pattie has spent considerable time upgrading the web site and the membership data base. This has cost us \$ but these costs will reduce considerably as the new membership system comes on line.
- The biggest cost the ASAP faces is conference publication. No longer are we able to do this by voluntary service and the arrangement brought in at Perth 2006 with publication in the Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture (and in the future the Animal Production Science) was very successful and will be continued. We also publish the 1 page abstracts under our old journal title, Animal Production in Australia. The one tangible thing that we offer members is a free copy of these publications irrespective of whether the member attend the biennial conference.
- We have recently introduced a young members travel award to provide support to young members and to meet our objectives as a Society.
- We have good reserves but it would be unwise to reduce those.
- We are a non-profit organisation so we need to endeavour to break even.

The following indicative budget gives the approximate costs for these activities. It is apparent that the current subscription fee does not meet our operating costs and we need to increase the fee. However we recognise that the conference subsidises some of these costs. Our suggestion for a fee increase goes some way to meeting the new expenditure items in our Federal budget and is a reasonable increase given it is for 2 years.

Current Federal membership fee for 2 years	\$88
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Approximate costs/2 years per member (ca. 200 financial members at present)

AJEA publication/member	\$52
Animal Production in Australia publication/member	\$14
Postage	\$20

Web site management	\$10
Members data base and secretarial services	\$25
Young members award	\$40
Miscellaneous Council costs	\$22
TOTAL	\$183/member

For these reasons we propose increasing the Federal fee by \$30/member to \$110 plus GST starting in 2010. Whilst this appears a large discrepancy much of this is balanced by conference registration and non-member conference registration.

In reply to a query from John Milton, Dennis Poppi advised that student memberships were half the full fee.

The Motion was carried with one dissent.

### **Proposal re future proceedings publication.**

Dave Barber suggested that to get a cheaper publication rate, the Society sign a three-conference contract with CSIRO Publishing with anew contract to be prepared for each Federal Council.

Chris Anderson (CSIRO Publishing) reported that copyright would remain with the Society.

In reply to a query from Dennis Poppi, Chris said that members and delegates would still get online access for 18 months.

In reply to a query from Darryl Savage, Chris said that it was proposed that the Current AJEA rating would carry over to Animal Production Science, but ratings were not set in concrete.

Darryl also raised the matter of copyright issues with employing organisations.

Robert Herd said that the new Federal Council would take note of the meeting's support for this proposal.

### **New Southern NSW Branch**

Dennis Poppi advised that anew Southern NSW Branch had been formed, involving Sydney, Bathurst, Orange, Canberra and Wagga Wagga.

Russell Bush advised that the first activity of the new branch would take place at Cowra.

### **Other Business**

Hugh Dove advised that SCA1990 had now been replaced by CSIRO 2000. Queries should be referred to Hugh.

Hugh also advised that the Academy of Science is guided by National Committees. Hugh represents Animal Science and can advance issues.

Chris Oldham endorsed the concept of further joint conferences with NZSAP.

David Cottle raised the possibility of future joint AAABG/ASAP conference.

Robert Herd said that there were also other groups that then Society could combine with for conferences.

Hugh Dove commented that a number of our former members are now served by specialist societies.

The meeting closed at 5:40 PM.