

PARASITOLOGY

New Zealand Society for Parasitology Newsletter

June 2016

Conference 2016

The 2016 New Zealand Society for Parasitology Conference will take place at the Rydges Hotel in Queenstown on 26 and 27 October.

Presidential Post

Greetings members,

My apologies for the delay getting this newsletter out, but the conference organisers have only recently pinned down the venue and dates for this years conference (see above), so please set those dates aside!

The Practical Advisory Day (PAD) may follow or precede this, although discussions have not quite happened yet....

There is plenty in this newsletter, so grab a cup of tea and enjoy!

Best regards

Victoria



Executive

<i>President:</i>	<i>Victoria Chapman</i>	<i>victoria.chapman@zoetis.com</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Cathryn Christie</i>	<i>cathryn.c@vetfocus.co.nz</i>
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New Members

Again, we have more new members that have joined the Society. Welcome to **Dhanasekaran, Paula and Kathryn.**

Dhanasekaran Sakthivel, PhD Candidate, Monash University, Australia

Gastrointestinal nematodes are something of a nightmare to small ruminants, particularly to sheep and goats. Which causes millions of dollar loss, due to production loss and cost of drug treatment in Australia and New Zealand. I joined as a PhD candidate in Dr. David Piedrafita and Dr. Travis Beddoe research group, to examine the role of carbohydrate recognizing proteins of sheep and their interaction mechanism with glycan's present on the gastrointestinal nematode-*Haemonchus contortus* surface. The ultimate goal of my research is to provide better insights in host immune resistance and design of a glycan based vaccine to conquer this vampire worm. By joining the NZSP, I anticipate to access parasitology related news and interact with more parasitology researchers in New Zealand.



Paula Grant

I qualified from Edinburgh University in 1990 and worked on the Island of Islay for a number of years this was a busy little mixed clinic with mainly a sheep and beef base. After a period travelling, locuming and having kids I bought the clinic and grew it into a modern vibrant business, servicing all corners of the animal health field. After this, my husband , 6 kids and I moved to the Limousin region of France and bought a sheep and beef farm, and I mastered enough French to work in the area. Working in rural France as a foreign woman was challenging! We also started up tipi and yurt campsite which sold our own farm produce.



In 2014 we decided it was time to move on and I was offered the role as veterinary manager of the Anexa FVC Clinic in Raglan. This role suited my mixed background perfectly and I am delighted to live and work in such a stunning place. The workload is varied, the clients welcoming and we have a great team here at the clinic. I am in the process of driving forward the sheep and beef side of the business and increasing our skills and competency in this area.

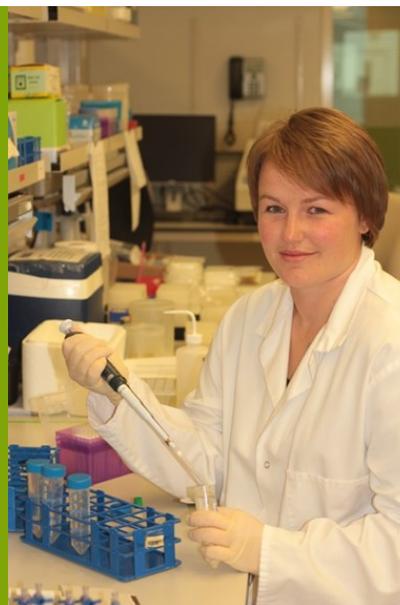
In This Issue

- * Presidential Post
- * Conferences
- * New members
- * Past member farewelled
- * In the news

New Members *continued...*

Kathryn McRae

Kathryn gained her Masters in Genetics at the University of Otago. During this time she was based at AgResearch Invermay with John McEwan, where her research involved analysing data from parasite selection line sheep genotyped with the ovine SNP chip. Kathryn then moved to Ireland, where she completed her PhD with Teagasc and Dublin City University. Her research focussed on identifying variation in the sheep genome controlling resistance to gastrointestinal nematodes in Scottish Blackface sheep. Kathryn has since re-joined the Animal Genomics team at AgResearch Invermay as a post-doctoral research scientist, where she is working primarily on the genetics of animal health traits in sheep.



Alex Familton

And after all these new members joining, I am sorry to inform you of the loss of an old one. Alex Familton died on 21 April 2016. He was born on 30 December 1937, so rising 79. He apparently felt tired, laid down for a sleep and never woke up again – which is a rather nice way to go. I don't know if he is currently a member of the NZSP, but he was in the past. Paul Mason and Robin McAnulty attended the funeral. It was well attended, with lots of family and many vets.

- Victoria

WAAVP 2017

Dates for the WAAVP next year have been announced...

26th International Conference of the World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP 2017) which will be held from 4th to 8th September, 2017 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Conference Theme is: **Combating Zoonoses: Strength in East – West Partnerships.**

Society Contact

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Visit the Society at

<http://nzsp.science.org.nz>

In the news

In case you missed it, further publicity on the benefits of being parasitised....

I've got parasitic worms living inside me, and it's great

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/well-good/teach-me/78818294/i-ve-got-parasitic-worms-living-inside-me-and-its-great>

And old parasites don't die (or go away)

Ked alert in Central Otago

<https://farmersweekly.co.nz/topic/crop-and-stock-management/pests/ked-alert-for-central-otago>

2nd International Conference on Parasitology

01—03 August 2016 Manchester, UK

“Addressing New Challenges and Emerging Issues in Parasitology”

For more details visit our website <http://parasitology.conferenceseries.com/>

So don't forget to put the 26—27 October in your diaries, +/- the day either side for PAD.

More updates will follow soon.

Science Media Centre Offerings

Science Media Exchange

We operate Scimex.org a go-to portal for journalists where we offer journalists embargoed access to research papers, multimedia content and an expert database. We'd invite you and your members to register as an expert on Scimex, where you can outline to our network of 400 journalists your areas of expertise and level of comfort working with different types of media. You can also pitch stories directly to journalists.

On the web: To register a profile on Scimex, visit www.scimex.org/expert

Science Media SAVVY

Throughout the country we run intensive two-day science communication workshops, courses designed to give you the skills to confidently engage with the media.

We also run **Science Media SAVVY Express** - rapid-fire interview sessions we can undertake at your conference designed to help researchers gain confidence being interviewed in front of the camera.

On the web: [Info on upcoming Science Media SAVVY workshops](#)

On the web: [Our helpful Desk Guide for Scientists: Working with Media](#) (we can send copies too)

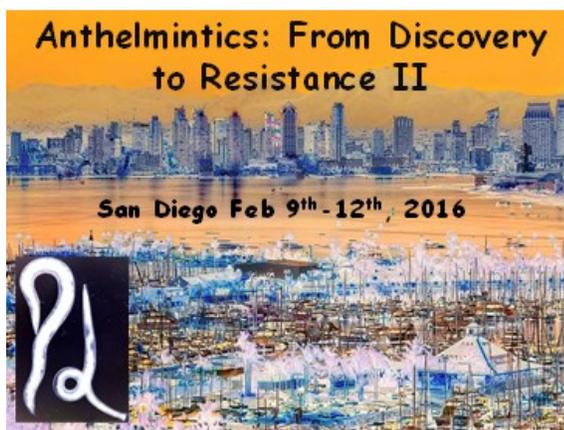
Sciblogs

We operate the largest blogging network in New Zealand, featuring the likes of Professor Michael Corballis, Dr Siouxie Wiles and Dr Michael Edmonds. Blogging is a great way to engage with the public and we can host your blog on Sciblogs, or accept guest posts from you if you would like to be an infrequent contributor.

On the web: Visit www.sciblogs.co.nz

SMC Media briefings

We regular hold online briefings for journalists on science-related subjects. If you identify an issue you think will new of interest to the media, or if there is media misunderstanding of a particular topic, we can host an expert briefing for media, where journalists dial in from their desks to gain valuable background that will improve their reporting.



Subs Reminder

For all those who have been reminded and have paid your exorbitant \$20 subs for the next financial year (2015-2016), thank you very much. If you haven't paid, please get in touch with Secretary Saleh, Saleh.Umair@agresearch.co.nz to sort payment.

Further to Victoria's reference on page 1 to changes in parasitology within AgResearch and industry, David Heath has offered to share his 2014 Conference presentation—"The Future of Parasitology."

If you would like to correspond with David, he can be contacted at david.heath @agresearch.co.nz

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