



PRESIDENT'S POST

Welcome everyone to the first newsletter of 2014. The year is already well underway and as a sure sign, the Massey campus is once again awash with students. I hope this year is a good one for all members of the Society.

Sadly, this newsletter carries the news of the death of one of our founding members John Tenquist. John died earlier last month. Our thoughts are with his family.

Last week in the UK, alas not here in NZ, saw the airing of a BBC4 documentary, "Infested: Living with Parasites". In it Dr Michael Mosley travelled to Kenya to infest himself with the beef tapeworm, put live lice and a leech on his own skin allowing them to feed and even infested his own red blood cells with some malaria parasites. The full show is currently available on youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SbEFdA8Bre0>), but maybe best left to well after dinnertime!

Many scientists have infected themselves to further their research, but I've never been tempted to do so myself. I've always been grateful that sheep worms generally don't establish well in humans, except maybe for *T. colubriformis*.

As entertaining as it might be, I think I'll stay worm free!

ASP 50th Anniversary Conference 2014 – NZSP Student award

Our Australian sister society the ASP will celebrate their 50th Anniversary this year at their Annual conference to be held 30th June to 3rd July in Canberra. I would encourage as many of our members as possible to attend. To celebrate this event the NZSP executive is willing to offer to pay the registration fees of up to two NZ students (who are also NZSP members) who plan to present at the conference. All students need do is send a one page document outlining their research and saying why they feel they are deserving of the award. This can be sent to myself (I.Scott@massey.ac.nz) by the end of April.

All the best

Ian

Executive

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NEW MEMBERS - REJOINING

ROGER WAKELIN

After a little over a decade in clinical veterinary practice I joined then Coopers Animal Health in the late 80's, just as we began to really deal with the emergence of parasiticide resistance in sheep lice, blowflies and sheep nematodes. It was a fun few years as the entire industry tried to define what was happening through science and to concurrently create effective communications for all affected. Eventually I shifted from technical to commercial leadership roles and started chasing fleas, ticks and eventually heartworm through a career in Merial that took me to Australia and the USA over the last 15 years. Since returning to New Zealand in early 2013 I have continued consulting to various businesses in the animal health sector and am pleased to be connected again with ruminant parasites! It was a great pleasure to catch up with many of you at the recent Society meeting.

[If you would like to get in touch with Roger please contact Ross Bland]

FAREWELL TO FOUNDATION MEMBER

JOHN TENQUIST

Every seat in Featherston's Anzac Hall was filled with friends and family paying tribute to John Tenquist, MNZM, who died on Saturday.

The number of people at his funeral yesterday was testament to the numerous groups and projects the Featherston resident was a part of.

South Wairarapa Mayor Adrienne Staples, who worked with Mr Tenquist, said it was a privilege to reflect on his contribution to local government.

"He was a forthright and tenacious councillor, someone who really cared about the town he lived in.

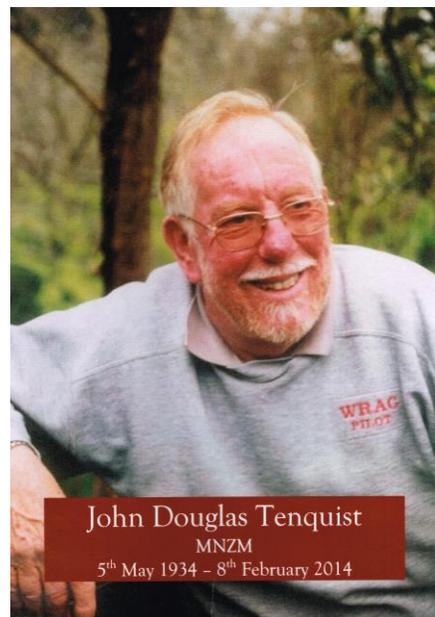
"Featherston and the district has lost a citizen who contributed much and had certainly become a man of note."

Karen Wong from the Office for Senior Citizens which Mr Tenquist volunteered for said it was extremely fortunate to have him on board.

"His service to community made him a unique asset to Wairarapa and to the Office of Senior Citizens.

"He never hesitated to share his knowledge and expertise."

Mr Tenquist's son Fraser said it was fantastic to see so many people.



"It's a testament to him to see so many people here today."

He said Tuesday also marked Mr Tenquist and his wife Erica's 53rd wedding anniversary.

Daughter Susan Allen talked about his last days at their Bethune St family home, where he died peacefully.

"He spent his final days in a town in which he played such a pivotal role."

She also talked about going duck shooting, tramping, eeling, possuming with her father and also the gift of music he gave her.

Mr Tenquist's granddaughters' speeches moved many at the funeral to tears.

Samantha Tenquist said he was the most amazing grandad to his 10 grandchildren.

Bonnie Allen said music connected her with her grandfather.

"His hard work and time put into the community of Featherston has touched many people," she said.

A parasitologist at the Wallaceville Animal Research Centre for 37 years, Mr Tenquist also volunteered and fundraised for many projects in Wairarapa, wrote books on local history, and was an active Lions Club member.

He was a qualified ambulance driver, the founding chairman of Friends of the Fell, a member of the Fareham House Visiting Committee, run by the Department of Social Welfare for children at risk, and a past-president of Featherston Jaycee.

Mr Tenquist was also credited for turning the very rundown Featherston Scout group into a high-performing one and started the Wallaceville Farm Days project, designed to give city children the opportunity to come into contact with farm animals.

Funeral celebrant Pam Bailey summed up his life in a poem - a life well lived.



POLITICAL EFFORTS: Mayor of South Wairarapa Adrienne Staples talked about John Tenquist's qualities as a councillor.

Photo: Lynda Feringa

From the Wairarapa Times Age, 13 Feb 2014

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/wairarapa-times-age/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503414&objectid=11201179]

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription of \$20.00 for ordinary membership is due.

Please make cheques payable to **The New Zealand Society for Parasitology**

Cheques can be sent to the Secretary or direct transfer details are **NZ Society for Parasitology Inc, West Pac, 03 0774 0857331-01**

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CONFERENCE 2013

Dates: 19 – 21 October 2014

Venue: The Royal Society of New Zealand, Turnbull Street, Thorndon, Wellington.

Organising committee includes Allen Heath, Geoff de Lisle, Alex Vlassoff and Dallas Bishop.

More details in the April newsletter.

PARASITE ADVISORY DAY

This event for 2014 is at the planning stage, with dates and venue to be finalised. More details in the April newsletter.

**ASP 50th Anniversary
Conference**

1964-2014 

Celebrating 50 years of the ASP

30 June - 3 July, 2014,
ANU Commons,
Canberra

www.parasite.org.au/arcnet

OBITUARY

John Douglas Tenquist MNZM

5 May 1934 – 8 February 2014

John Tenquist died three days before his 53rd wedding anniversary after a short illness brought on by aggressive tumours on his liver. John had not been completely well following an earlier operation to remove a growth beneath his jaw, which may have been a consequence of the numerous squamous-cell carcinomas he had endured over most of his time in New Zealand. It was most unfortunate too that John's quality of life declined sharply in the 6 months leading up to his death.

John was born in London on 5 May 1934 and spent some time in Egypt and Malta as a small child during WWII as his father was moved around in his reservist naval officer role. John and his mother eventually moved back to London and then onto Ireland to avoid the bombing. After the war John and his mother moved back to England and by the time he was 11 years old John had been to 9 schools. At his last school he had some farming experience and after he left school

had a variety of farming-related jobs which led him, at age 17 to apply for (and get) a job taking charge of livestock being shipped to New Zealand.

Later he took a position on a farm in Feilding where he stayed for 2 years, and in 1954, obtained a Diploma in Agriculture from Massey University (then Massey Agricultural College) while acting as a herd tester around Pahiatua. John moved to Wellington in 1958 and began a job with the then Department of Agriculture as a customs officer.

In November 1961, not long after marrying Erica Horner, John joined Wallaceville Animal Research Centre, being seconded there after a stint as a Department of Agriculture port inspector in charge of transporting livestock to Somes Is. John had lymphoedema in his legs most of his life and it was thought too risky to allow him to continue in the role because of the chance

of severe damage from a kick by a cattle beast.

John joined the Parasitology Section at Wallaceville, headed then by Lloyd Whitten (still with us at 97) and was placed as a technician with Susan Millar the entomologist, assisting her with rearing blowflies for undertaking efficacy tests on the large number of insecticides that were coming onto the market. Blowfly larvae were 'implanted' onto the back of sheep dipped in candidate insecticides and sheep observed at set intervals to measure decay in insecticide protection periods.

In late 1966 Susan left on maternity leave, her position being filled by me (I had arrived to join the section in mid 1965) and John and I began a working partnership that lasted until he was transferred to science communication duties around 1987.

Apart from the flystrike prevention studies mentioned above, John's personal scientific contributions included assessing the economic effects of flystrike, evaluation of acaricides against cattle tick and, with Tony Charleston, the production of a very useful checklist of the ectoparasites of terrestrial mammals that is frequently cited. He also, along with Dallas Bishop assisted me in many field trials, including studying the ecology of scrotal mange of rams, further trials of chemicals against blowflies as well as lice, tick ecology and a brief foray into kiwifruit pollination. John was happier in the field handling livestock than at the laboratory bench and fortunately much of my research programme offered him the opportunities he desired. He obtained a Churchill fellowship in 1970 which enabled him to obtain useful experience in the Australian cattle tick scene and to visit me

during my PhD studies in Brisbane. He maintained the laboratory during my absence between 1971 and 1974.

John was scientific liaison officer (= public relations manager) at Wallaceville in his latter years and produced a book on Wallaceville's history as well as a weekly newssheet. He also began and ran the highly successful Farm Days at Wallaceville which gave thousands of primary school children their first contact with livestock. This was the forerunner of the comprehensive education programme that was available at Wallaceville for many years until the research institute was closed down in 2006.

John was a foundation member of the New Zealand Society for Parasitology and a long-time member of the Entomological Society of New Zealand (honorary member in 1999 having spent 20 years as newsletter editor). The Entomology Society newsletter, *The Weta*, (sub-titled a 'Scientific Supplement'), first appeared in October 1977 with John as editor, and he remained so until 1997 with 30 issues in total from his tenure. That *The Weta* continues today as an important adjunct to *The New Zealand Entomologist* is testament to both its usefulness and John's commitment to its survival.

John retired from Wallaceville in 1998 and continued both civic and family affairs in Featherston, his home of 53 years. Throughout those years he had been variously a Lion's Club member and president, revived the local scout troop and helped establish the Fell engine museum. He also obtained his pilot's license in his 60s. John served on the Featherston Borough Council for 6 terms until 1983 and stood for South Wairarapa District Council,

completing 3 terms before retiring; in total 27 years of public service. He is remembered by his colleagues there as a 'forthright and tenacious councillor', being well-informed and well-prepared for meetings.

John was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in 2007 for his services to senior citizens and the community. He had served as a Volunteer Community Coordinator for senior citizens for 14 years and also as a Positive Ageing Ambassador during the latter part of his role.

John will be remembered for his long-time contribution to both scientific societies, his

pleasure in arguing the point on many issues, spelling, politics and religion among them, as well as his great sense of humour and his devotion to his wife Erica and his family, who have the deep-felt condolences of the members of this society. John had a lot of favourite sayings that frequently came into his conversations, with one used often and readily remembered being: 'I might have many faults, but being wrong isn't one of them' and we won't argue the point now. *Vale* old friend.

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(Note: There are a small number of items in the first 3 volumes of *The Weta* under John Tenquist's name, but they are not scientific publications, referring instead to editorial policy mainly, and so are not listed here.)

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Prepared by Allen Heath

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With thanks to Erica Tenquist and family, as well as Adrienne Staples and Susan Millar for supplying some of the material on which this obituary is based.

SAVE THE DATE

International Congress on PARASITES OF WILDLIFE

2014

KRUGER NATIONAL PARK SOUTH AFRICA

14 - 17 September 2014 Kruger National Park

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