



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Its all been said or written before but there is no doubt that many people's lives have been changed forever following the Christchurch earthquake. Thankfully, to the best of our knowledge, all Christchurch based Society members survived, with their properties relatively intact. In this issue Paul Mason provides an update as to how people fared following the September and February quakes.

In order to gain some inspiration for writing this note I visited the Society's website and re-read the President's reports from the past two years newsletters. A recurring note in the Presidents comments was one that the Society must maintain its relevance to both agriculture and the wider community.

To my mind relevance is certainly not an issue – weather conditions in the northern half of New Zealand during the La Nina Summer we have just experienced, appeared ideal for many parasites. The eight year old came home from school with a great crop of head lice, the dog always seemed to have fleas, and farming friends told me their sheep were getting eaten alive by blowflies. I think perhaps rather than relevance, the society's challenge is making people aware of its relevance. To that end I would encourage all members to talk to co-workers and associates who have an interest in parasitology and persuade them to join.

By the way – does anyone know of a good way to get rid of head lice in children?

Colin

NZSP CONFERENCE 2011

**ICLT, Massey University
Palmerston North
27 & 28 October**

Conference dinner will be held at Wharerata on 27th of October

If you have suggestions for symposia topics please forward it to the organising committee.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions notices will be sent out in a separate posting.

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CONFERENCES

2011 ASP Annual Conference

Sunday 10th until Wednesday 13th July
Pullman Reef Casino, Cairns

Conference website: www.parasite.org.au/arcnet/conference

Registration is now open, please register online at
www.conftool.net/parasitology2011/

World Association for the Advancement of Veterinary Parasitology (WAAVP)

21 – 25 August 2011
Buenos Aires, Argentina

For details: <http://www.waavp2011-argentina.com.ar>

ROYAL SOCIETY NOTICE

The Royal Society of New Zealand has set up a **Biological and Life Sciences Vice President's Advisory Panel** which will advise the Society on matters of concern to the Biological and Life science community. As part of its activity, it intends to co-ordinate the development of Royal Society policy/issues papers on important themes in the biological and life sciences, and is currently working on a paper on the competition for land use. In order to identify future topics to develop, the Panel would like to invite Constituent Organisations in the biological and life sciences to suggest ideas for policy related topics that the Royal Society might focus on for one of its policy/issues papers. As a guide, the issue should be of National importance and be an area where the RSNZ and its Constituent Organisations have substantial expertise.

All suggestions for topics should also be accompanied by the names of champions who could be approached to chair the development of the topic with the Royal Society. These champions could be members of your organisation, or who are Members, Companions or Fellows of the Royal Society.

Deadline for topics and champions by 6 May 2011.

Yours sincerely,
Marc Rands

Contact Details

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NEW MEMBER

Welcome to Cathryn Christie!

Cathryn is a Territory Manager for The Vet Centre, based out of Putaruru however looking after clients in Te Awamutu and Otorohanga also. She is particularly interested in drench

resistance/sustainability and enjoys putting farms on effective drench programmes. Cathryn vet nursed from 1998- 2007 both small animal and equine, here in New Zealand and for 5 years in the UK. She lives on a drystock farm in Ngaroma with partner Hank who is a shepherd on the 1000ha block. In her spare time she enjoys hunting with Waikato Hunt and also does a fair bit of deerstalking.

CHRISTCHURCH MEMBERS

We are all very aware of the traumatic events Cantabrians have been experiencing since September 2010 and which are still continuing.

The Society has a number of members in that region and we recently asked Paul Mason if he could update us on how they were. Below is an excerpt from Paul's email...

Paul Mason

The September 4 quake was frightening and lots of things fell off shelves and a few got broken. The fridge disgorged its contents on to the kitchen floor. In my laboratory everything on the east side moved toward the west, including a 4m long floor to ceiling bookcase. Fortunately the microscopes were on the western side of the lab and were undamaged. The continuing >4000 after shocks up until the New Year were felt and were very unsettling. The Feb 22 quake did not move a thing at our place, and we have felt

few of the after shocks since then. We have a wooden framed house on piles, clad with weather boards and corrugated iron, and built on free draining alluvial land. It has taken a real hammering, we were less than 10km from the epicentre of the September 7.3 quake, but it has survived intact. We did have many times when sleep was impossible as it felt like the house was being thrown against a brick wall at intervals of a few hours. But Rolleston has proven to be a good place to be with little damage out here.

Dave Rutherford is fine, a few cracks in his house but unlikely to be structural.

Wallie Clark at Woodend should have been fine, but I have not heard from him.

Robin McAnulty is fine, but there has been some damage to his house, the base pad has split and moved apart a little way, and there was some liquifaction. The house is still quite livable.

Lloyd Whitten - His home was within the cordon and would probably have lost power, water, etc. I phoned with no success.

Jan McKenzie – working at the University of Canterbury has not been contactable.

“After the February 22 quake which hit Christchurch rather hard communications collapsed, as also happened after the September 4 quake. Lines became overloaded with calls and couldn't cope, cell phone towers lost power and had to revert to batteries. The batteries only lasted for about 2 days. Both cellphone voice and landline voice was overloaded and either unreliable or just did not work. Text messaging was the best option, but that also had its limitations, particularly as the batteries on the functioning cell phone towers waned.

After the September 4 quake we just hunkered down and made the best use of the resources we had. Travel was not an option as there had been a run on petrol and there was none available.”

...from Paul Mason

If anyone, either a Christchurch-based member or if you are in contact with our Christchurch members and have any updates we would like to hear from you to ensure that everyone is safe.

RESIGNATION

Neville Haack is no longer working for AgResearch. Neville is now with Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory & Leptospirosis Research Unit, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences Massey University and is still based in Palmerston North.

