



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last week saw the launch of the latest instalment of what has become a tradition with the 3rd year vet students at Massey: the 'Barely There' naked calendar. Parents across the country will be flinching. "What was young Felicity thinking?". But surely University is the one place where you can do the silliest of things and get away with it? In fact, for some time my rather flippant advice to the students, should they ever find themselves hauled up in court after an act of bravado goes awry, should be to get a *Toxoplasma* test! 'It wasn't me, my lord, the *Toxoplasma* made me do it!'

Whilst many in the Society will be familiar with *Toxoplasma*, especially as a cause of abortion in sheep, the possible effects of this parasite on humans is receiving a lot more attention of late and even made the front page (internet version at least) of the British newspaper The Independent late last year. Another case of media hype? Will media interest in the parasite spur an increase in research funding? Maybe not, but maybe this one has legs!

With recent findings of toxoplasmosis as a potential cause of mortality in NZ's endangered Hector's dolphins, and with Gareth Morgan's campaign to reduce New Zealand's cat population, perhaps it is *Toxoplasma's* time.

For those with an enquiring mind, there was a recent review on the effect on humans (How and why *Toxoplasma* makes us crazy) by Jaroslav Flegr in Trends in Parasitology (April 2013, Vol 29, issue 4, 156-163). For those too riddled with

Toxoplasma to care, calendars can be ordered from <http://www.vetcalendar.co.nz/>

Have a not too wet winter!

Ian

Tuesday 04 September 2012



NEWS | OPINION | SPORT | PARALYMPICS | LIFE | PROPERTY | ARTS & ENTS | TRAVEL | MONEY | IN
UK | World | Business | People | Science | Environment | Media | Technology | Education | Olympics | Obituaries | Dia



Beware of the household cat

Steve Connor: 350,000 Britons a year infected with pet-borne parasite linked with psychotic disturbances.

[How toxoplasma spreads... and spreads](#)

[The scientist who uncovered 'fatal feline attraction'](#)

[Q&A: Toxoplasma - what can be done?](#)



Lib Dems would keep more seats under Cable

PARALYMPICS



Simmonds leaves world in her wake

Yesterday at the Games: Stunning final length seals record display for Games' poster girl.

Swimming: Simmonds delivers gold No 2 with miracle medley



Bushell sets the

Executive

President:	Ian Scott	I.Scott@massey.ac.nz
Vice President:	Victoria Chapman	Victoria.chapman@pfizer.com
Treasurer:	David Heath	David.heath@agresearch.co.nz
Secretary:	Caroline Costall	caroline.costall@agresearch.co.nz

Seismic excuse to whisk treasures away

Bob Brockie
WORLD OF SCIENCE



DISTINGUISHED biologists once directed New Zealand's big museums. Julius von Haast, Sir James Hector, Sir William Benham, Sir Gilbert Archey, Dr Robert Falla, to name a few. Specialists in biology, geology and ethnology staffed these museums which displayed stuffed animals, birds, fish and tattooed heads in glass cases, skeletons, fossils, and drawers full of rocks, shells, insects and artefacts.

Although they were centres of scientific excellence and scholarship, everybody, especially children, loved poking round those museums.

But in the 90s, a new breed of manager was appointed to run the museums, including Te Papa. Like shopkeepers, these chief executives' main concern was getting as many

punters as possible through the doors. Start with branding and advertising then bring on the colour, noise, fun, the electronic and digital experience, the hands-on gizmos, bells and whistles, and extensive labelling to ensure visitors interpreted exhibits with political correctness. And, most importantly, draw in customers who had never set foot in museums – minority groups, petrolheads, bogans, rednecks . . .

These people want excitement, fun, and entertainment, not stuffed animals or fossils. So the Dominion Museum's vast collection of natural history and its staff of 20 scientists and technicians got very little space at Te Papa on the waterfront. The collections and staff were left in buildings about a kilometre away up Tory St.

Now the Tory St scientists are under siege and their morale is at an all-time low. They have been told their job is to curate the collections, not research them. One of the world's best collections of whales has fallen through the cracks with



nobody to look after it. Several scientists and technicians have been sacked and, most woundingly, from once directing the museum, scientists have been demoted and their voice is seldom heard at top committee tables.

Te Papa's chief executive says he plans to divide the museum into two parts – one for culture, one for the future. Scientists at Te Papa have no idea if or where they will feature in the new regime.

The Tory St building has been listed as a "seismic risk" and the chief executive appears to be using the risk as an excuse to shift all those stuffed and catalogued collections out of Wellington and off to Northland or perhaps the South Island.

Hello! Scientists worldwide are astonished and incredulous to learn that hundreds of years of experience and heritage might be ripped out of Wellington and banished to Siberia.

I have the feeling that Te Papa's managers think the natural history collections and its staff of scientists are an expensive liability and would happily sell the lot to any Dubai or Macau potentate.

Because of the limited parochial scope and the singing, dancing tone of Te Papa, many have suggested that Wellington needs two more museums. One exhibiting European, African, Asian and American culture, the other a Museum of Natural History exhibiting the world's stuffed animals, skeletons, fossils and butterflies, and staffed with some distinguished scientists.



Cartoon mosquito wasn't helpful

I congratulate *The Dominion Post* for giving prominence to issues of scientific and health concern; the story about mosquito control and malaria (Science, May 20) is no exception. Despite years of research and expenditure, malaria continues to be a widespread and often fatal disease that appears to be increasing rather than diminishing in prevalence.,

May I, however, be allowed some disappointment and a pedantic complaint? To highlight the article with a cartoon mosquito did no credit to the reportage; in fact, it could be inferred that the article was trivial, a joke about mad science and mad scientists, which I'm sure wasn't the intent.

Mosquitoes are flies and by definition (Diptera) have only one pair of wings; the cartoon's cross-eyed beast with five wings, a spiky proboscis and a sting is so far from reality as to be ludicrous. Couldn't someone have found an image of a

real mosquito, and so added to the article's educational value?

Too few children choose science as a career and too few adults understand or appreciate its value. Though it might be stretching credulity to suggest that a cartoon creature is unhelpful, some semblance of accuracy would not go amiss.

Dr ALLEN HEATH
Woburn [abridged]

NEW JOURNALS



See the links to two open access parasitology journals affiliated to the Australian Society for Parasitology and published by Elsevier.

- International Journal for Parasitology: Drugs and Drug Resistance (IJP:DDR)
<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-for-parasitology-drugs-and-drug-resistance/>
- International Journal for Parasitology: Parasites and Wildlife (IJP:PAW)
<http://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-for-parasitology-parasites-and-wildlife/>



ZOETIS – PRESS RELEASE (22 APRIL 2013)

Zoetis brings animal health focus

The New Zealand head of the world's newest standalone animal health business, Patrick Dorahy, is enthusiastic about what it means for farmers, vets and pet owners. **Zoetis brings animal health focus.**

The New Zealand head of the world's newest standalone animal health business, Patrick Dorahy, is enthusiastic about what it means for farmers, vets and pet owners.

Zoetis, previously known as Pfizer Animal Health, became a reality when 20% of the Animal Health business was floated on the New York Stock Exchange by its parent Pfizer.

"The creation of Zoetis marks a milestone, in the animal health industry as well as for the company. Public listing of the largest animal health company is a very strong indicator of our faith in the sector. As a standalone animal health company, we now have a clear focus for our efforts, that is to offer solutions to the animal health sector, across a range of products and

services," said Patrick Dorahy, Zoetis General Manager for New Zealand.

That faith is shared by a market that valued the 86 million shares on the day of the float at US\$31 up from the listing price of US\$26, making it the single biggest US company offering since Facebook.

The new name Zoetis originates from the Greek word "zo", signifying the bond between human and animal, and the phrase "zoetic" meaning "pertaining to life."

The name Zoetis aims to capture the focus on animals, both companion and livestock, and the needs of the people charged with their care.

While the name Zoetis is new, Patrick Dorahy emphasises the company retains the people, and investments in research, development, and innovation that Pfizer Animal Health was known for.

Zoetis retains the global reach with presence in 120 countries, manufacturing sites in 25

locations, and over 9500 people supplying product, supporting customers and developing new technologies. But most importantly the company retains a strong local presence in New Zealand, a country where agriculture is integral to the economy, and the care of animals and pets is second nature.

“Our goal is to improve herd productivity and pet wellness. We do this by working with customers to better understand their needs and find solutions to those needs through local innovation and the assistance of global expertise”

Patrick Dorahy says New Zealand has been at the leading edge of innovation in product design and in services that are provided to customers that complement our pharmaceuticals.

“The dairy business is significant and we have been fortunate to work with leading researchers who have developed label extensions and programs tailor made for the dairy situation here.

In 2008 the portfolio was diversified with the acquisition of Catapult genetics and with further investment through Ovita and Agresearch a suite of DNA tests have been developed and marketed globally.

Bopriva was developed specifically for the New Zealand bull beef farmers with a vaccine to increase bull productivity and

simplify management. New Zealand was the first country to launch Startect, a new combination drench the latest option in the face of sheep drench resistance.

Over the last five years the pet owners of New Zealand have benefited from the launch of four significant new drugs in diverse areas such as skin infections, arthritis, vomiting and cancer.”

Veterinarians have also benefitted from the development of Zoetis information platforms, Infonet is a unique data gathering tool that assists farmers and dairy vets better manage herd health. Dorahy said over the past year significant effort had gone into splitting of company systems and operations from the Pfizer business to ensure a seamless transition to Zoetis.

“As we launch Zoetis we hope our customers see a retention of the things we believe we do well, delivery of quality products and educational packages supported by high calibre people. We also believe we can do more, with a complete focus on animal health we aim to work even more closely with our customers to understand their needs and deliver on the essential future requirements’

ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

2013 Medals and Awards

Closing date: 30 June 2013

Call for nominations, Royal Society of New Zealand 2013 Medals and Awards A suite of sixteen prestigious medals and awards will be offered by the Royal Society of New Zealand in 2013: [Callaghan Medal](#), [Charles Fleming Award](#), [Hamilton Memorial Prize](#), [Hatherton Award](#), [Hector Medal](#), [Humanities Aronui Medal](#), [Hutton Medal](#), [MacDiarmid Medal](#), [Mason Durie Medal](#), [Pickering Medal](#), [Pou Aronui Award](#), [R. J. Scott Medal](#), [Rutherford Medal](#), [T. K. Sidey Medal](#), [Te Rangi Hiroa Medal](#), [Thomson Medal](#).

Nominations are now open, and nomination forms and details are available from our website via the links above.

CONFERENCE 2013



Dates: Sunday 20 October – Tuesday 22 October 2013

Venue: Massey University Sport and Rugby Institute

Palmerston North

<http://www.sportandrugbyinstitute.co.nz/>

Organising committee - Tania Waghorn, Laryssa Howe and Caroline Costall.

A quick update from the organising committee confirms a couple of **invited speakers**

Martin Nielsen - horse parasitologist, M.H. Gluck Equine Research Center, University of Kentucky



Patricia Conrad - Toxoplasma, Cryptosporidium & pathogenic bacteria in fresh water and marine ecosystems. School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California

The **call for abstracts** will be made in late July.

The NZSP website will shortly be updated with options for **accommodation**.

SUBS REMINDER

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:

Direct transfer details: NZ Society for Parasitology Inc,
West Pac, 03 0774 0857331-01

Members are welcome to contact Caroline if they're unsure if they've made payment.

Phone: 06 351 8685

Email: caroline.costall@agresearch.co.nz

**Caroline Costall
AgResearch Ltd
Grasslands Research Centre
Tennent Drive
Private Bag 11008
Palmerston North 4442
New Zealand**