



PARASITOLOGY

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New Zealand Society for Parasitology December 2020 Newsletter

President's Post

Warm greetings to all our NZSP members.

I feel like I should start by congratulating you for making it to December! It's certainly felt like a very long year. People all around the world have, and continue to, face significant challenge and disruption. It seems this has caused many of us to pause and reflect on whether our societal structure is as resilient as we need, and what holds the most value for us. I am hopeful that we can use this 'global reset' to improve both ourselves, and our planet!

For the Society, we have managed to continue more-or-less as normal this year – with online committee meetings the norm already, and our conference being held late in the year.

Conference and PAD went off without a hitch – for which we extend sincere gratitude to those who give their time to help organise these events. Special thanks to Ian and Ian; Clive, Vic, Andrew, and Simon. There were 55 delegates at the conference and 31 attendees at PAD – it was fantastic to see so many of you there, despite the uncertainty travel brings at the present time! We are yet to assemble an organising committee for NZSP Conference 2021, so if you're interested in shaping the content for next year please get in touch.

At the AGM this year, two Society life memberships were awarded to members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Society and our collective parasitology knowledge. Congratulations to Bill Pomroy and Paul Mason – both very deserving recipients! You can read about their respective careers and contributions later on this page and on pages 2 & 3. Some changes to the NZSP Committee were also finalised at the AGM. We welcome some new faces, and some we have seen before!

Those unable to attend the Conference and AGM this year can read more about the NZSP Committee on page 3 & 4 and see a few photos from

conference on page 7 & 8. If you'd like to have a copy of the conference proceedings, and check out what happened at PAD, head to [the Society website](#) to download these.

I'm sure you'll all join me in saying a big 'thank you!' to Cathryn for the huge contribution she has made to the Society over the past three years as President. I am certainly aware I've got some big shoes to fill! We wish Cathryn and Ant all the best as they welcome their new addition to the family.

That's a wrap from us – we'll be back on the tools and back in touch in the New Year.

Wishing you a safe and happy summer, whether you are working or resting!

See you next year

Ash Keown

NZSP President

NZSP Life Membership Award 2020 Paul Mason

Paul Mason needs no introduction to most Society members! A stalwart figure in the New Zealand parasitology scene, Paul certainly deserves to be awarded life membership of the New Zealand Society for Parasitology – especially as he helped to create it!

Paul started his journey in Christchurch, where he majored in Zoology and graduated with a Bachelor of Science (completed with Honours) from the University of Canterbury in 1966. Paul clearly had a hunger for research from a young age, as he launched straight into his PhD the very next year – fossicking around in the tussock of the Southern Alps looking for grasshoppers.

We assume that while scouring the rugged southern hillsides for bugs, Paul caught a bug of his own – a love of parasitology! Upon completion of his PhD, Paul took up a position as a parasitology scientist with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Inver-

may in 1972.

About the same time MAF lost Fisheries to a new dedicated Ministry, Paul also left them to create his own stand-alone ministry – as his own boss! Mason Consulting began in 1995, and we reckon the working conditions must be pretty good, because Paul is still working for them 25 years later!

As an independent consultant in veterinary parasitology, Paul has been undertaking laboratory diagnostic work, contract research involving field studies, and providing invaluable guidance and advice for farmers, veterinarians, and other scientists for decades.

Paul has an impressive list of publications (particularly as he is not an academic researcher!) across a range of species including sheep, deer, horses, cattle, and even birds. Paul's research output represents a considerable contribution to our collective knowledge and ability to control parasites and has assisted the development and refinement of several commercial anthelmintic products.

In addition to his paid work, Paul has put in more than his fair share of voluntary work for the Society. Paul was a Foundation Member of the society, and throughout the 1990s served as a Committee Member, Vice-President, and President. After a short break from committee duties, Paul returned to serve as Secretary/Treasurer from 2000-2006.

On top of his committee roles, Paul has contributed hugely to the organisation of Society conferences over many years including (at least – there may be more we've accidentally left out!) Dunedin (1993), Christchurch – including WAAVP (2005), Wanaka (2009), and Dunedin again last year.

However, arguably the most important role Paul has played within the Society is that of Co-Malt Whisky Selector for the annual Conference Dinner – which he has done together with Dave Cole since 1992! We've had many a fine drop over this time, to which we owe Paul a debt of gratitude. On behalf of all members of the New Zealand Society for Parasitology, we wish to acknowledge Paul's great contribution to the field of parasitology by awarding him Life Membership of the Society.

NZSP Life Membership Award 2020 – Bill Pomroy

It may come as a surprise to many of you that Bill is not already a life member of the New Zealand Society for Parasitology, and detailed elaboration why he is finally being granted the honour is hardly needed! However, given Bill's huge contribution to the field of parasitology and the NZSP, it's well worth a look back through his career to date.

Bill attained a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (with Honours) from the University of Sydney in 1976 and spent two years working in mixed practice in Tasmania before returning to the University of Sydney to undertake a one-year internship (and be awarded a Diploma of Veterinary Clinical Studies).

Bill then spent two years travelling as a locum veterinarian, working in Australia, Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom, and Saudi Arabia – which we assume must have really solidified his interest in parasitology, because he then took up a role at Massey University as a lecturer in veterinary parasitology...and never left!

Many of the veterinary NZSP members will remember being taught by Bill, but the list of students who have Bill to thank is much longer – having mentored 16 PhD candidates, 23 Masters students, and nearly 10 other post-graduate students.

All of us will have read several of Bill's research papers, which is easy to do seeing there are more than 130 of them appearing in peer-reviewed publications, and more than 220 of them in conference proceedings. But I bet not many of you know that Bill is also an inventor! You'll find Bill's name on at least 4 patents held by Bomac Research Limited, and if you're a horse owner you might have even purchased one of the anthelmintic products that Bill helped to create.

After 20 years of solid contribution, Bill was finally promoted to Associate Professor in 2003, and then was very quickly promoted to Professor just 5 years later. Given that Bill secured well over 1.8 million dollars in research funding for the university during the next 20 years after his promotion we think Massey made a pretty good hire! Bill has also contributed his time on various committees and appointments including being a

member of an AGCARM anthelmintic resistance taskforce; Chairing a workshop at the International Goat Conference in China; being a member, secretary, and Chair of an organising committee for the World Association for the Advancement of Parasitology; being a member of the Editorial Board of the journal Veterinary Parasitology; and of course, being a member, committee member, and conference organiser (5 times!) for us – the NZSP.

Bill is no stranger to awards, having already being presented with the Alan Baldry Award for services to the sheep industry, the Australasian College of Veterinary Scientists Most Commendable Paper (twice!), and the Massey University Team Research Medal. But as Bill looks to herald in the next phase of his career at the end of the year – a well-deserved retirement – we hope he can handle just one more.

Committee changes

It was great to see a good number of you at the AGM in October. For those unable to make it, here's a quick update on the changes to the New Zealand Society for Parasitology committee for the 2020/21 membership year.

Tania Waghorn continues as Treasurer (thank goodness!)



Hi all, we have been asked to introduce ourselves to the members as some of you don't know who we are. So here we go, I have been working with the society on and off now for more years than I

care to remember, in various roles. For those of you new to the society I work at AgResearch Grasslands in Palmerston North in the Parasitology team. We work with ruminant parasites of sheep, cattle, goats, deer and more recently horses. These parasites include Gastrointestinal nematodes and trematodes as well as ectoparasites such as flies and ticks. The impact of anthelmintic and insecticide resistance is a large part of our work and how we can reverse, mitigate and prevent its development takes up a lot of our time.

Saleh Umair re-joins the committee as Secretary



Hi all, I am delighted to re-join the committee as secretary. Originally from Pakistan, I came to this beautiful part of the world around 12 years ago to do a PhD and study aspects of nematode biochemistry and molecular biology. Since then I have been involved in studying these fascinating creatures and have been working in the Parasitology team at AgResearch focussing on the biological control of nematodes. I am very excited to be part of the NZSP committee and look forward to interacting with you.

Emma Poole joins the committee as Vice President.

Hailing from a calf rearing farm at Muriwai beach I grew up as one of five farm kids. Much like a calf with a good Ostertagia burden, I too was small and undergrown for much of my life. Unfortunately for me, my mother's attempts to drench me didn't have any effect on my growth rate, however it sparked my interest in parasites at an unnaturally early age. Twenty odd



While I'm still relatively fresh-faced, I've now moved on from clinical practice – having drifted through a couple of years representing large animal veterinarians at the New Zealand Veterinary Association (which included trying to drum up support for including anthelmintics in discussions vets have about product stewardship) I now find myself at Fonterra. I feel a bit guilty that I'm now away from the 'coalface' of parasitology, however I still have a keen interest in all things parasites and hope to contribute positively in my time as NZSP President – even if only through sheer enthusiasm!

David Seifert continues as Newsletter Editor (phew!)

years later and I am now a fully grown and thriving adult running a dairy farm in Pirongia with my husband and working as a dairy vet at Vetora Te Awamutu. My interest in parasites is as keen as ever and I look forward to being part of the NZSP committee.

Ash Keown takes over from Cathryn Christie as President



I have had a lifetime interest in farming and horses. This led to a career in rural sheep and beef veterinary practice based in Raetihi. Any spare time has been spent on our deer farm or skiing and holidaying with the family. Bill Pomroy introduced me to the Society many years ago and I continue to enjoy the quirky mix of subjects at the annual meetings. You never know what you are going to hear, but it is often relevant, even if indirectly, to your day to day work.

I must start by thanking Cathryn for introducing me to the Society when I was a fresh-faced young vet, enthusiastic to grow the parasitology capability at our practice. Although in retrospect I now suspect it was all part of a greater plan to ensure she had a replacement!

After 45 years of being on call for every second or third week Ali & I have sold our vet practice to Taihape Vets and I have slowed down a little to only 4 days a week at the practice and less

after hours. I now won't have any excuses for being late with the newsletter!



**New Zealand Society for Parasitology
48th Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 21 October 2019
Distinction Hotel, Palmerston North**

The meeting was opened at 4:30pm

Attendees

Bill Pomroy, Saleh Umair, Charlotte Boucher, Alex Chambers, Cathryn Christie, Tania Waghorn, Ash Keown, Andrew Dowling, David Heath, Allen Heath, Trevor Rudman, Chris Miller, Kiliansa Bekehaar, Ken Lawrence, Luis Coruline, Richard Shaw, Gina de Nicolo, Paul Hughes, David Seifert, Kathryn McRae, Victoria Chapman, Christian Sauermann, Heather Simpson,

Apologies

Clive Bingham, Dave Leathwick, Anthony Oswald, Ian Scott, Paul Mason, Dave Cole

Previous Minutes

President Cathryn Christie moved that the minutes of the 47th AGM (circulated via email) be accepted as an accurate record.

Proposer – Christian Sauermann

Second – Allan Health

Matters arising

None.

Correspondence

Inward

- Newsletters (and requests for content from NZSP) from the Royal Society.
- Membership enquiries
- Conference and PAD enquiries

Outward

- Membership newsletters
- Conference and PAD information

Presidents Report

Outgoing President Cathryn Christie presented the President's Report (Refer Appendix 1). It was moved that the President's Report be accepted.

Moved – Victoria Chapman

Seconded – Christian Sauermann

Treasurer's Report

Tania Waghorn presented the Treasurer's Report (Refer Appendix 2).

Subs down for 2018/19 membership year – mostly due to refunds from cancelled conference in 2018.

Approximately \$4000 of payments not received from unpaid conference registrations and sponsorship. Members expressed support for the committee to pursue unpaid dues.

It was moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved – Tania Waghorn

Seconded – Victoria Chapman

Notices of motion

None.

Election of Officers

Cathryn Christie nominated Ash Keown as President.

Ash Keown nominated Emma Poole as Vice-President.

Tania Waghorn nominated Saleh Umair as Secretary.

No other nominations were received from the floor.

Tania Waghorn continues as Treasurer.

Officer positions unanimously agreed by attendees.

Next Conference

Venues proposed include Taupo, Rotorua, Napier, Wellington, Palmerston North.

No volunteers for organizing committee came forward.

Committee will work on a plan for conference.

General business

Life membership nominations

It was moved that Paul Mason be awarded Life Membership of the New Zealand Society for Parasitology.

Proposed – Cathryn Christie

Seconded - Saleh

It was moved that Bill Pomroy be awarded Life Membership of the New Zealand Society for Parasitology.

Moved – Cathryn Christie
Seconded – Christian Sauermann
No other general business.

Meeting closed at 4:58pm
Appendix I

**2020 Presidents Report to the
New Zealand Society for Parasitology
48th Annual General Meeting
Held in Palmerston North**

October 2020

Welcome to the AGM of the New Zealand Society for Parasitology, held here in Palmerston North. The Society has 55 delegates attending this year's conference, and we thank all in attendance now for staying on for this AGM. Our conference committee of the two Ian's have done a stellar job. 2020 has been an interesting year, to say the least! I feel that we are lucky to all be here considering the country was in full lockdown in April. The NZSP committee had a difficult decision, on our hands, as to whether to go ahead or not, I'm grateful for our decision to hold the conference – nothing beats face to face interaction in my eyes. Yesterday's Parasite Advisory Day held at Awapuni was a great success with 31 attendees, a reduced number from our record 74 last year in Dunedin but as Simon alluded to, a good number for lively discussion. Clive Bingham, Victoria Chapman, Andrew Dowling and Simon Marshall are the committee which organize this day – I would like to thank you all for your time and energy as I feel the PAD day really raises awareness of the Society and helps to increase our wider membership.

Nik Palevich stepped down this winter from the Secretary position – many thanks to Nik for his stint on the committee. Ash Keown has ably taken the reins since then - we appreciate your input Ash. Saleh Umair has very kindly offered to return to the Secretary role. I have nominated Ash to replace me as President and Ash has nominated Emma Poole (nee Dangen) to replace him as Vice President. Emma, alongside another member, Camille Flack, has also joined the Wormwise committee so a congratulations to them both, that committee will be chaired by a new member of the NZSP, Dan Brier. The NZSP executive would like to extend our thanks to Simon Marshall for his time and energy as Wormwise chair over the

last few years.

Luckily for us, both Tania Waghorn and David Seifert have agreed to stay on in their roles as Treasurer and Newsletter producer – many thanks to you both for the past year's efforts. As I am at the end of my 3 years as president I've been reflecting on my own interest in parasitology – like most people dealing with ruminants I started out with the mindset of 'how best to kill these little pests' and as my knowledge has grown, so has my mindset. Parasites, as you all well know, have been around for millions of years and have evolved in so many clever ways to survive. I never cease to be amazed by what they do to complete their lifecycles and live on. Unfortunately they have an incredibly negative image in society – they deserve more respect than hostility. It is good to see that our advisors in the field realise that we must learn to live with them and manage them, that we will never win by trying to obliterate them. Thanks to Colin McKay for introducing me to the Society, I'll be taking a year or so out to deal with my own little parasite who will be arriving in January. (Don't tell Mum I called him that!)

We had no student travel grant requests this year due to the lack of university travel. Our social media presence on Facebook is managed by Tania and I encourage you to follow us on Twitter @society_nz, we retweet any interesting global parasitology news.

Last but not least a big thanks to our generous sponsors: Elanco, Gribbles Veterinary, PGG-Wrightson. Your support is appreciated, as is the support of the employers of the committee (AgResearch, NZVA/Fonterra and Atkinsons) for enabling us to do our committee work.

I now ask if there are any questions, and ask that the President's report be accepted.

Cathryn Peacocke
NZSP President

Some Photos from the conference

Bill Pomroy Introducing chemistry student Arka Gupta who is working on the development of a novel anthelmintic



The next photos perhaps give a hint to the forebears of the Societies founders

New President Ash serving the conference Scotch to Paul Hughes, Lawrie McMurtry, John Meban, Chris Miller, Dave Leathwick and David Seifert



Ian Sutherland extolling the virtues of the Glenmorangie single malt chosen for the conference dinner



AgResearch's new baby an automated faecal egg counting machine from the USA that accurately counts to 5 or 10 epg. Designed for horse parasites it has also been configured for sheep. It needs high throughput to keep licence costs down but will initially be very useful for research



Ian Scott presented 4 of the 8 morning papers. He was probably glad of a rest after lunch!

Below Jamie Ward presenting CARLa results in yearling deer. With FEC not particularly useful in deer CARLa scores have been shown to be associated with greater live-weight gain in yearling deer as well as reduced worm egg output.

