



PARASITOLOGY

May 2021 Contents

- ◇ Presidents Post
- ◇ 26 Oct Parasite Advisory Day
- ◇ 27-28 Oct Conference
- ◇ Member news
- ◇ Research & Resistance
- ◇ Upcoming Events

New Zealand Society for Parasitology May 2021 Newsletter

President's Post

Hello NZSP members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well, and adjusting to the seasonal swing on autumn. Here in the Hutt Valley we've already had one reasonable frost, which already puts us at 50% of last year...although I'm not game enough to make a prediction on whether that means anything about the upcoming winter!

Despite a couple of stutters earlier in the year, it seems New Zealand's elimination strategy is holding fairly firm. I'm no infectious disease specialist, but even I have felt rather surprised by some of the procedural gaffs which have occurred in the MIQ facilities. Thankfully it appears the leadership has at least some willingness to learn from past mistakes, and I hope these learnings will ultimately place us in a stronger position for the future.

As an NZSP Committee, we still do online meetings as we're geographically spread. This year I have noticed our virtual backgrounds have got more complex, and our conversations more animated – which I assume we owe to our own technological learnings last year! The committee has mainly been focussed on streamlining our membership database (which has become rather large and unwieldy) and brainstorming ideas to enhance the value of NZSP membership. We've started with some additions to this newsletter which we would like to make regular – spotlighting new research and upcoming events. We're also considering how we can reach a wider audience to share parasitology information and espouse the benefits of NZSP membership to more people!

If you've got ideas for how we could make the newsletters more valuable for you, or how we can broaden our reach, please let me know:

ashkeown@gmail.com

We've got the dynamic duo of John and Meg Moffat leading our conference organising committee this year. They have done a great job so far finding us a suitable date for this year's conference in Wellington (see below). At this stage it's just the two of

them, and like most big jobs 'many hands make light work'. If you're prepared to chip in – even just a few hours – it would be greatly appreciated by the committee. Send me an email if you're keen to be involved.

Our regular PAD organising crew are on the case, and I hear we're going to have another fantastic workshop really grounded in the practicalities of delivering effective on-farm advisory services. That'll do for now, we will be in touch again over the next few months as we gear up for conference. In the meantime, I hope you get a little time out to enjoy the cool air and warm colours of autumn.

Until next time,

Ash Keown, NZSP President

PAD and Conference 2021 Save the date!

We're pleased to announce the date for Parasite Advisory Day, and the NZSP Conference 2021 which will be held in Wellington. Please mark it on your calendar now:

PAD – Tuesday 26 October

Conference – Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 October

We will let you know more details as we get closer, but now is a good time to book some leave annual and start thinking about whether you would like to submit an abstract for conference!

Welcome new members

The NZSP Committee would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest NZSP member Melissa Hempstead, who has joined the team at AgResearch. Here are a few words from Melissa about her career to date:

"I completed my PhD in biological sciences at the University of Waikato in partnership with AgResearch in 2018 and my thesis investigated improvements to disbudding protocols for dairy goat kids to eliminate or reduce pain. Prior to this, I completed a Bachelor of Science with honours and eval-



uated the behavioural response of goat kids to caudary disbudding. During my postdoctoral research associate position at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, I worked on a two-year research project evaluating dairy goat welfare on commercial farms in the Midwest, which included research on pain mitigation for disbudding and castration of goat kids. I have recently started a post-doctoral scientist position with AgResearch on a project investigating links between health and welfare of sheep with internal parasites and potential biomarkers of poor health associated with parasitism. Prior to my career in research, I was a secondary school teacher of science, biology and mathematics.”

Great to have you on board Melissa!

Do you have any colleagues or friends who could benefit from NZSP membership? If so, get in touch with our Secretary saleh.umair@agresearch.co.nz

Our members in action

The contribution of several lifetimes

A couple of months ago, NZSP member Christian Sauermann got in touch with the Committee to share a Stanford University database of top science researchers – accessing career-long citation impacts (up to the end of 2019) using standardized citation metrics. You can read the methodology of

the database creation here <https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000918>

We did a search check of the database using our current member list, and discovered we have a few superstars among our ranks. In the spirit of celebrating success, we'd like to congratulate the following NZSP members on their huge contribution to science:

Mark Costello
Geoffrey De Lisle
Dave Leathwick
Robert Poulin
David Heath
Phil McKenna

Is somebody you know on the list? Check out the database for yourself (we used table S6) <https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/btchxktzyw/2>

Article spotlight

We thought it would be enjoyable to dedicate part of each NZSP newsletter to highlighting new research from some of our members. This month we're sharing a paper with more than just a couple of familiar names at the top!

In the April issue of Veterinary Parasitology, several of our colleagues from AgResearch contributed an article under the title 'Host effects on the free-living stages of *Haemonchus contortus*'. Their findings indicate that the host animal of the parental parasite generation has a significant effect on the parasite progeny. Read the full text article here <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S03044401721000613>

Do you have some research to share? Let us know about it – send an email to our Secretary saleh.umair@agresearch.co.nz

News - Scene + Herd Podcast

Farmers managing triple drench resistance

The latest episode of Beef+LambNZ's podcast features farmers Sam Johnston, Hamish Blundell and Mike Cranstone discussing how they manage triple drench resistance on their properties. Set aside an hour and listen on the B+LNZ website <https://beeflambnz.com/knowledge-hub/podcast/PC114-farmers-talk-about-drench-resistance#msdyntrid=VXS7KF4E3gAOJ1aUmFfuxc8Y>

7XquuzBFmd7jxudUXxA, on PodBean <https://beeflambnz.podbean.com/> or wherever you like to get your podcasts from!

Royal Society Te Apārangi Alert Newsletter Alert is the weekly newsletter from Royal Society Te Apārangi – it shares events, news and opportunities for those interested in exploring and discovering knowledge.

Here is Issue 1137 from last week <https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?u=aeb1040afb4474ec7a22ca8da&id=06a1d1ebd2> and you can also find back issues on the Royal Society Te Apārangi website <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/whats-happening/alert-newsletter/>

If you haven't already subscribed, you can sign up to receive it here <https://us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=aeb1040afb4474ec7a22ca8da&id=76e763179d>

A winning grin

Here's a bonus image which was sent to the NZSP Committee a few weeks ago by one of our wonderful members. The photo was taken during the traditional whiskey tasting at the 2020 conference dinner in Palmerston North. David's face is the absolute epitome of joy – it's so contagious, we felt it would be a crime not to share it with the rest of the



membership!

Upcoming events

If your social calendar is looking a little empty, here are a few upcoming events which might take your fancy!

Grazing in Future Multi-Scapes: 31 May-5 July ONLINE

This international workshop is to influence future mental and practical models of pastoralism in continually evolving multi-scapes. The workshop/conference will comprise a series of mini-workshop streams that have been crafted to cultivate a shift in thinking towards sustainable, multi-purpose pastoralism. These streams will be synthesized to establish how multifunctional pastoral systems can be reimagined and then designed in view of the integrative dynamics of sustainable future multi-scapes. Read more on the multiscales website <https://www.multiscapes.co.nz/>

He Pito Mata - Early Career Research Wānanga 17-18 June in Wellington, Aotearoa New Zealand Theme: Awakening the Potential

He Pito Mata is a unique convergence of connecting, sharing and networking, amplifying the kōrero of early career researchers in Aotearoa. Hosted by the Early Career Researcher Forum Aotearoa that seeks to represent the national voice of New Zealand's early career researcher community and celebrate their achievements and contributions, this wānanga provides a unique convergence of connecting, learning and networking. Read more on the Royal Society website <https://www.royalsociety.org.nz/events/he-pito-mata-awakening-the-potential-early-career-research-wananga/>

NZVA Conference 23-25 June in Christchurch Aotearoa New Zealand Theme: Stronger together

This year the New Zealand Veterinary Association and the New Zealand Veterinary Nursing Association come together across two separate conferences. As has been seen over the last 12 months we can achieve so much more if we work together towards a common cause. Bringing the veterinary

profession together builds collegiality, networking, inclusivity, and friendships.

Read more on the NZVA conference website

<https://www.nzva.org.nz/2021conference/>

**ANZCVS Science Week 2021
8-10 July 2021 in Gold Cost, Australia**

Back as an in-person and on demand event after a brief hiatus due to COVID-19, the conference has something to offer for every veterinarian; from epidemiology to pharmacology; from veterinary behaviour, animal reproduction, aquatic animal to zoo and wildlife animals; from small animal medicine and feline medicine, cattle, oncology or unusual pets as well as equine and veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation.

Read more in the conference brochure https://ripehosting.blob.core.windows.net/anzcv-s-dev-me-dia/33280/20210419_science_week_preliminary_program_2021_v2_with_chapter_updates_wip.pdf

**ANZCCART Conference 2021
25-27 July 2021 in Queenstown,
Aotearoa New Zealand
Theme: Openness in animal research and
teaching.**

Public confidence in animal research depends on the scientific community taking part in an on-going conversation about why and how animals are used. This year ANZCCART will look at animal research from different viewpoints during discussion of transparency and the benefits or risks of openness, and what this looks like in practice.

Read more in the conference brochure <https://anzccart.org.nz/app/uploads/2021/03/ANZCCART-Conference-brochure-3.pdf>