



PARASITOLOGY

New Zealand Society for Parasitology Newsletter

November 2014

President's Post

Hello Members,

As the 2014 year draws to a close I think we can look back on an interesting year, parasitologically speaking. The Theileria situation is plowing on unchecked, with the only silver lining being vets are now very adept at performing blood transfusions in cows. There is still investment in, and research coming from, Massey and AgResearch in the parasitology field, which, as David Heath passionately expressed at Conference, is still very much needed in NZ as there is still an awful lot we don't know.

The annual conference was again a great success with over 80 delegates over the 3 days. My thanks goes to Dallas Bishop, David Heath, Alex Vlassoff, Allen Heath & Geoff de Lisle for their superb job in organising a very interesting and well run programme. The incorporation of parasitology in human health was fascinating, with many people now well versed in fecal transplants and the cure rate of this procedure against clostridium difficile (you really had to be there to laugh).

CONFERENCE 2015

This will be a joint conference with the Australian Society for Parasitology

Venue: Auckland

Tentative Dates: 28 June—02 July 2015

Nick Smith & Lisa Jones from the ASP attended this years AGM & provided an outline of the conference before heading to Auckland to view potential venues.



Invited speakers from the "Living with Parasites" symposium

L—R: Ian Wilson, David Howes, Cathy Hammond, Graham Le Gros, Mark Jones & Brendan Arnold

Some speakers have now generated a fear of opening match boxes or leaving their phones on during presentation following a threat of participation in a faecal transfer!

In This Issue

- Presidential Post
- New Members
- Conference 2014
- Caption Competition
- Student Prize winners
- 2015 Conference
- Conference photos

Continued from Page 1....

I would also like to thank Immediate Past President Ian Scott for his time on the committee and as President, David Heath who stood down from Treasurer and Ross Bland who resigned as Secretary. Thank you for all of your hard work, you have left the bank accounts and the society in good shape!

I would like to welcome 3 new members onto the committee. Cathryn Christie from Vetfocus in Otorohanga as Vice President, Tania Waghorn as Treasurer and Saleh Umair as Secretary, both from AgResearch in Palmerston North.

The immediate focus for the committee will be working with the Australian Society on the 2015 Conference which will be held in Auckland from June 28th- July 2nd, so please put these dates in your diary now!

On behalf of the committee, I wish all members a safe, festive and restful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Best regards

Victoria Chapman

Many thanks to...



Conference 2014—Welcome Function

Chris & Tasha were there on Sunday evening with a selection of their craft beers...*Hop to it Pale Ale, Kumara Brown Ale, Wood Fired Toasted Coconut Porter*, to mention a few.....



Silverstream Pale Ale
3.8% ABV. A mildly-hopped session beer. The style is called an 'ordinary bitter' but this one is malty & slightly sweet with biscuit flavours. Serve at 8-10°C.



Hop to It Pale Ale
5.0% ABV. An assertively-hopped IPA with bitter marmalade hop flavour balanced against malt sweetness with NZ cascade hops on the nose. Complements rich or spicy foods. Serve at 8-10°C.



Moonless Stout
4.5% ABV. A refreshing, dry stout. Pours pitch black. A striking aroma of roast coffee beans and dark chocolate. Mildly bitter, perfect with shellfish & hearty dishes. Seasonal winter-brewed. Serve at 8-10°C.



Velvet Boot Strong Belgian Ale
8% ABV. A strong Belgian pale ale with complex aroma, spicy and earthy with some sweetness. Mildly-hopped, complements chicken, soft rind cheeses, & chocolate cake. Serve at 8-10°C.



Kumara Brown Ale
5.0% ABV. A medium-hopped brown ale, malty with a golden kumara finish. Complements pork & savory dishes. Seasonal autumn-brewed. 8-10°C.



For Great Justice Wood Fired Toasted Coconut Porter
4.5% ABV. A pleasantly sessionable brown porter, infused with manuka wood-fired toasted coconut. Subtle, refreshing and delicious. Great with Asian cuisine and barbecue. Serve at 8-10°C.



Maidstone Lager
5.0% ABV. A light refreshing Vienna lager. Low hop bitterness, full malt flavour. Serve at 5-8°C.



Karengoose Salty Seaweed Ale
Karengoose is an edible purple seaweed from Kaitiaki. A Gose (go-sai) is a cloudy German wheat beer brewed with salted water. Karengoose (Ka-ren-go-sai) fuses German style & New Zealand karengo into something rich & strange, tart & briny with a luscious sour finish. Serve at 8-10°C. 4.0% ABV.

Many thanks to **Margaret Vlassoff & Maria Heath** for helping with the catering on Sunday night.



Conference in review

As the joint winners of the student prize for their presentations

Daniela Tapia

"It's always nice to attend to the New Zealand Parasitology conference and this year it was nice to change city, from Palmerston North to Wellington. Also it was very interesting that the conference targeted not only to the veterinary side, in terms of production, companion animals, epidemiology and wild life, but also in the view of "one health" and that sometimes parasites or some of their products more than causing the disease may help to keep us healthier"

Trent Rasmussen

Overall the NZSP conference was a really rewarding experience. It was great to hear about a broad range of current issues in parasitology, and it was especially interesting to hear about what novel approaches people had come up with to tackle different issues in the field. Everyone that I met at the conference was friendly, welcoming and showed genuine interest in what I had to say (even though my talk was very niche and about a less topical issue). I hope to attend the conference again next year and I look forward to hearing more from the members of NZSP in future.



Trent & Daniela with Victoria receiving their student prize

Strange coincidence observed during Mark Vicker's presentation



PALEOFANTASY

WHAT EVOLUTION REALLY TELLS US ABOUT SEX, DIET, AND HOW WE LIVE

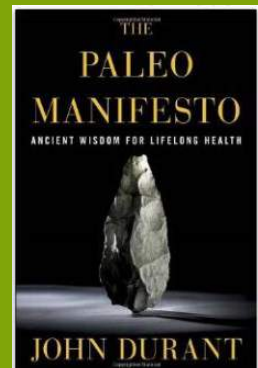
MARLENE ZUK



Books mentioned during presentations on "Living with parasites", day one of the conference.

Also Wormswell Helminth Therapy—David Pritchard—see "Can hookworms protect against allergies?"

[<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/>](page 5)



New Members

Trent Rasmussen

After growing up in Northland, NZ, I moved to Dunedin to do a BSc in Ecology. Over the course of my degree I enjoyed studying a range of subjects, but I found a particular interest in parasitology. I have done some research looking at parasite dynamics in sand hopper populations, and I am now working on my MSc looking at parasite dynamics in sharks. As a member of NZSP I hope to broaden my understanding of parasite dynamics with insights from a range of people and projects in the field.

Caption Competition

In the last newsletter the photo below featured. Alex was photographed during a game of golf at Martinborough. A number of captions were received & these were featured in a slide show at the conference dinner.

During the conference three more photos were put up. The results from this competition are shown in this newsletter. Lucky winners received a selection of Kereru beers donated by Chris & Tasha.

"Alex (aka Fred Flintstone) unaware that the wheels of his golf buggy had not been invented yet"

"Alex found this wood more useful than his usual selection"



"A game of moans had finally turned into a game of thrones"
- Allen Heath



Photo Caption 3: "My goodness, did they just fall out of your mouth or were they already in the glass?"
- Peter Pulford

Footnote—Following Brendan Arnolds presentation I thought Photo 1 might have elicited some faecal transplant captions! [DMB]

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Photo Caption 1: "One lump or two?"
- Allen Heath



Photo Caption 2: "Who 'Spotted Dick' first?"
- Alex Vlassoff

Many thanks to Sponsors and Supporters of the Conference



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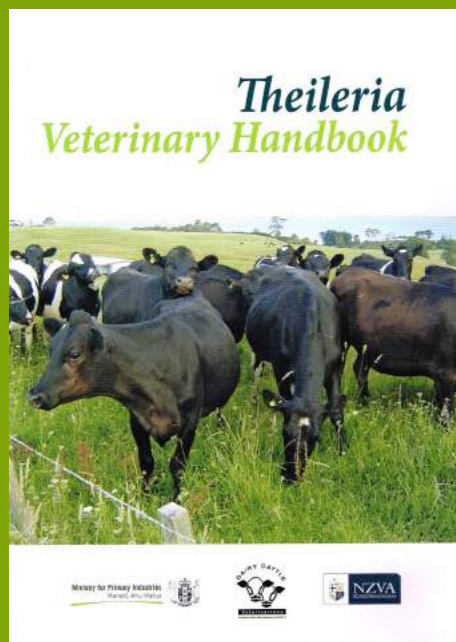
Useful Reference

In the presentation by Andy McFadden, MPI, on the second day, reference was made to the "Theileria Veterinary Handbook" [editors Andy McFadden & Roger Marchant; June 2014].

The booklet is described as a 'ready-to-use' reference for veterinarians when advising clients on the management of *Theileria* associated bovine anaemia (TABA).

Copies of the handbook are available online at www.mpi.govt.nz

Also available is the 'Field Anaemia Nearest Indicator (FANI) card. Hard copies of the card are available from Daan Vink (daan.vink@mpi.govt.nz)



Can hookworms protect against allergies?

By Elizabeth Svoboda

In 2004, David Pritchard applied a dressing to his arm that was crawling with pin-size hookworm larvae, like maggots on the surface of meat. He left the wrap on for several days to make sure that the squirming freeloaders would infiltrate his system.

"The itch when they cross through your skin is indescribable," he said. "My wife was a bit nervous about the whole thing."

Pritchard, an immunologist-biologist at the University of Nottingham, is no masochist. His self-infection was in the interest of science.

While carrying out field work in Papua New Guinea in the late 1980s, he noticed that Papuans infected with the *Necator americanus* hookworm, a parasite that lives in the human gut, did not suffer much from an assortment of autoimmune-related illnesses, including hay fever and asthma. Over the years, Pritchard has developed a theory to explain the phenomenon.

"The allergic response evolved to help expel parasites, and we think the worms have found a way of switching off the immune system in order to survive," he said. "That's why infected people have fewer allergic symptoms."

Executive

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Themes at the Conference...serious discussions, eating....





ENTREE

CAPRESE SALAD

Roma tomatoes, buffalo mozzarella and basil salad with balsamic. (V, GF)

CRISPY DUCK SALAD

Seared crispy skin duck served on a sweet red onion, coriander and baby rocket salad, sprinkled with toasted black sesame seeds and drizzled with a sticky orange reduction. (GF, D)

MAIN

CHICKEN SUPREME

Oven roasted free range chicken, filled with fig and lemon and wrapped with streaky bacon. Served on honey roasted vegetables and jus. (D)

CRISPY SKIN PORK BELLY

Paired with a delicate pork filled wellington, rested on a bed of truffled mash accompanied with an apple cider jus.

DESSERT

COFFEE CRÈME BRULÉE

Brulee with pistachio tuile, served with a bitter coffee handmade ice cream (V)

TIRAMISU

Served with crème anglaise and strawberry (V)

All courses are served



...and some drinking

