



CONFERENCE 2008 EDITION

CONGRATUALTIONS

Allen Heath - in the August edition of the 'Royal Society Alert' (536) a new **Companion of the Royal Society of New Zealand** was announced.

It is included the following...

"Dr Allen Heath has had over 40 years' experience researching the biology, ecology and control of ectoparasites and companion animals. Allen's involvement in science communication and technology transfer began principally in the 1980s when his group undertook a large technology transfer programme to assist farmers with ectoparasite control. His group developed a fly-trapping programme for schools named "Flytrack" , a 'realtime' research programme involving school children. Another of Allen's innovations was the publication of AgFacts, a simple and brief way of getting basic facts to farmers on insect control on a single sheet. He has become well-known in recent years for presentations on Radio New Zealand National."



The Gladiator giving his opening address on the second day of the conference

CONFERENCE 2008 – 23 & 24 OCTOBER

The 2008 conference is over!

Attended by approximately 80 members and non-members, the conference was held at the Travel Lodge, Cuba Street, Palmerston North.

An excellent opening address was given by Robert Poulin, Otago University. Robert looked at the life cycles of a number of New Zealand trematodes and how they manipulated their host or skipped intermediate hosts if the external environment was unfavourable.

This was followed by a series of papers on such topics as:

- Avian malaria in saddlebacks moved from Mokoia Island to Bushy Park (Isabel Castro)
- Gastrointestinal mucins in sheep and nematode effect (Van Hoang)
- Retrieval of L3 larvae off grass, how can numbers be increased, and why can't you get them back? (Kath Hillrichs)
- Changes in epithelial barrier function and adult nematodes (Lisa Walker)
- What happens to farm dogs that come in contact with pour-on formulations containing abamectin - reversal of effects (Kathy Parton). Anyone having encountered cases of dogs with these symptoms or where abamectin contact is suspected is asked to contact Kathy (IVABS).
- Hydatid vaccine marketing in China, Tibet, South America and Iran. The presentation included some great travelogue shots (David Heath)
- The new anthelmintic class, amino-acetonitrile derivatives (AAD) was described from the initial isolation through development and dossier preparation for registration (Barry Hosking)
- Identification of the first allergen from a louse - in this case the sheep chewing louse (Alex Pfeffer)
- Immunological markers as an alternative to FEC for selection (Richard Shaw)
- South African research using the FAMACHA diagnostic system for anaemia in sheep infected with *Haemonchus contortus* (Dean Reynecke)
- The effects of desiccation were investigated on L3 *Teladorsagia circumcincta* stored at temperatures from -4°C to 37°C for 24 hours to 32 days (Mohammad Abdalla)
- Bsure, a bulk milk test for anti-*Osteraia* antibodies (Sean Daly).
- Seasonal patterns of parasitism in horses was studied in the Manawatu region (Ian Scott)
- Plant parasitic nematodes with a variety of feeding habits were described (Gregor Yeates).

The second day was a series of 10 minutes presentation under the heading **New Zealand Parasitology – Quo Vadit?**

The presentations covered many agricultural sectors – dairy, beef, sheep, deer, equine and companion animals, parasites, both internal and external and a brief look at new technologies.

Each presenter outlined issues surrounding the research in a particular area, issues that might have related to funding, staffing, training. Also the perceptions of the farmers and funding bodies.

In Ian Sutherland's summation, as chair of the session, he made mention of the low profile of parasitology and the society. [Ian has attempted to raise the visibility and relevance of the society with articles in farming papers – you will remember the 'sexy beast' caption segment in the last newsletter, and also with the planned museum exhibits].

From the discussion that followed it was apparent that there was parasitological research being overlooked, mainly in the ecology field. The presentation by Isabel Castro on avian malaria was a good example.

The university representatives indicated that parasitology now forms only a small portion of graduate or under-graduate teaching programmes. In some cases only six lectures, while in some universities the parasitology component has been completely eliminated.

Use of the Society website (on the Royal Society's site - recently resurrected by Ian Scott) for linkages to other organisations and the inclusion of poster material or other research material for student use would help with the visibility of the Society.

Any member with further suggestions on ways in which the society could raise its profile and relevance and to ensure that 'good science' was being undertaken should contact the executive.

*Thank you to the conference organisers, session chairs
Sponsors and the Travel Lodge for a great conference!*

Also included in the conference pack from Novartis Animal Health was
"Anthelmintics and Resistance: A Review"





“Thank you to the Sponsors”

**Bayer (NZ) Ltd * Bomac Laboratories Ltd
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CAPTION COMPETITION FROM THE CONFERENCE

Three photos – three winning captions....



"It's at times like these I wish I had arms as long as Bill Pomroy"

- Barbara Adlington



"Hey Bro, you should try petanque if you're so keen on balls"

- Charlotte Bouchet



"By the end of the study only one goat continued to show an elevated level"

- Dallas Bishop

FROM THE AGM

The Executive

President:
Vice President:
Secretary / Treasurer:
Committee:

Ian Sutherland
Colin McKay
Ian Scott
Tania Waghorn

Conference 2009

The venue put forward by Robin McAnulty (& Paul Mason) was Wanaka. Support for this venue was also offered by Colin Harvey. A farmers forum and a visit to a high country farm are under consideration.

NZSP Website

This is up an running again of the Royal Society of New Zealand web page.

MORE ENTERTAINMENT FROM PALMERSTON NORTH

A caption competition....

Red Costume Day



And the winner in the Red Corner
Lawrie McMurtry



**NEW ZEALAND
PARASITOLOGIST**

Horror!
unveiling of new
super loo brings
un-invited guests...

Ascaris lumbricoides can grow up to 30 cm long in the human small intestine and adult females produce up to 240,000 eggs per day for over a year.

Over 1/4 of the world's population is infected. With an average infection of 10 worms per person, that amounts to over 16 billion worms.

Eggs are passed in faeces and can survive in soil for up to 7 years.

The hookworms, *Ancylostoma duodenale* and *Nector americanus*, infect up to 1 billion people and collectively drink up to 2.5 billion litres of blood per day.