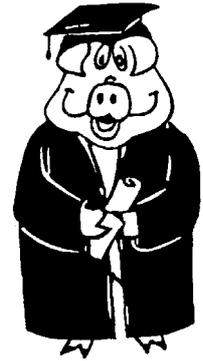


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# APSA UPDATE

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**NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALASIAN PIG SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (INC.)**

**President: Dr Pat Spicer**  
**Secretary: Ian Barugh**  
**Newsletter Editor: Geogy Philip**

**December 2004**

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## ***President's Column***

Welcome to another edition of APSA update. This newsletter will be bringing you up to date with all the Committee's preparations for our next Conference. Most of our Committee meetings are held as a phone link-up but recently the Committee held our first face-to-face meeting in Christchurch and I really must say that after looking at the Convention Centre, Town Hall and Hotels, that our colleagues over the Tasman have done a fantastic job with their choice of venues.

Also, at this APSA Committee's first face-to-face meeting we worked out a draft scientific programme. Our First Announcement for the meeting in 2005 is outlined later in this Newsletter. Thanks to those members who made excellent contributions and suggestions about topics they would like to see included in next year's meeting. Unfortunately, we could not accommodate everyone's wishes, but we do hope that the mix of topics chosen will be sufficient enticement for you to attend the conference. Further details regarding speakers and the structure of symposia and reviews will follow in the next Newsletter.

Several changes to the organisation of the APSA conference have occurred that I would briefly like to mention. I am pleased to announce that the Editor's duties for *Manipulating Pig Production X* will be carried out by the editorial consulting group, Par Excellence of Perth, WA. The scientific editor will again be Janet Paterson, who did

an excellent job for APSA with MPP IX in 2003. In consultation with an Editorial Sub-Committee chaired by Dr Frank Dunshea, Janet will be responsible for all editorial matters associated with the production of *MPP X*. Par Excellence will also take over management of the APSA (Inc) Website. The APSA website will incorporate a number of links, one of which will allow on-line payment of membership fees. Registration for MPP X in Christchurch in November 2005 will also be done on-line. In addition, Par Excellence will streamline the compilation and production of the proceedings and, for the first time for APSA (inc.), implement a web-based system of submission of papers for authors. Yes people, APSA is well and truly heading into the electronic age! Because of all these innovations and additions, our website is being re-built. So don't panic if you can't get onto it straight away. It will be back bigger and better than before. Par Excellence will be providing the Instructions to Authors soon, so keep your eyes tuned. Finally, the APSA Committee has appointed the New Zealand Pork Industry Board (NZPIB) as the Conference Secretariat for the 2005 conference. Ian Barugh will be the contact person at the NZPIB for inquiries and registrations as the conference approaches.

Full details of addresses and contact details of these appointments are available from the APSA home page, <http://www.apsa.asn.au>

### **First Announcement – 2005 APSA conference details**

The APSA Committee has great pleasure in announcing that the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc.) will be held at the Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand between the 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.

The APSA committee has put together a challenging and exciting scientific programme that we hope will entice you to Christchurch. The program that has been put together will focus on:

- Strategies and Coping Mechanisms for the Modern Scientist (A.C. Dunkin Memorial Lecture)
- Beta-agonists – From mechanism to commercial application
- Gene Markers -How they can be used in selection?
- Air Quality-What effects does it have on animal health?
- Gilt and first litter management to achieve lifetime performance
- Sow Group housing
- Mycotoxins-What are they and how do they impact on animals?
- Opportunities to manipulate pork to improve it's health characteristics
- Health Strategies for the modern Pig Industry

APSA (Inc.) has invited a number of internationally and nationally recognised speakers in these fields who will address the conference in the form of invited reviews and symposia. As in past years, contributed (refereed) one-page papers and poster presentations will form a major and very important part of the conference. While the all-important 'Instructions to Authors' will appear courtesy of the Editor soon, just pencil into your diaries that the deadline for submission of one-page papers will be the **15<sup>th</sup> May 2005**.

In addition, the organising committee will continue the theme of the 2003 Producer Focused Conference sessions, which are planned for one day of the conference. Further details pertaining to the exact make-up of the Producer Day sessions will be announced in due course. Additionally, following the success of the APSA study

tours that occurred at the completion of the 2003 Conference, the Committee is happy to announce that there will be study tours held at the end of the Christchurch Conference. Details will be announced in following APSA Newsletters.

As has been the norm for past APSA conferences, rooms will be booked for Sunday afternoon workshops/seminars. These workshops precede the start of the APSA conference on Sunday evening, which kicks off with the Dunkin Memorial Lecture. Organisations that have held workshops in the past will be contacted soon to gauge their interest in conducting one again in 2005.

The Committee trusts that the programme for *MPP X* will be of interest to all those wishing to attend the conference. Therefore, as the old cliché goes, 'there's a bit of something there for everybody', so do not miss out.

### **The Batterham Memorial Award**

Yes folks, it's that time of the season to start thinking again about nominations for the Batterham Memorial Award for 2005. This award has clearly established itself as one of the most prestigious in the Australian pig industry. While there was some discussion that the award should only be offered for the duration of the original sponsorships, it is now clear that APSA (Inc.) must ensure this award is maintained well into the future. APSA (Inc.) will continue to maintain the expanded judging panel for next year's award. Further details regarding eligibility, the nomination process and closing date for nominations will be included in future editions of APSA Update.

### **Photos from past APSA conferences**

As the APSA 2005 conference in Christchurch will be the tenth, it has been suggested we take a few moments at the start of the conference to "remember the good old days"

Anyone with photos that they can lend, or Email scans of their photos from the golden APSA days at the Albury Club, etc, should contact Graham Pearson, our current treasurer. Email [g.pearson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:g.pearson@massey.ac.nz) or mail to Graham at IFNHH, Massey University, PB 11-222, Palmerston North, New Zealand

### **Letter of thanks from Pat Spicer**

As the 2003 recipient of the Batterham Memorial Award, I was greatly honoured and humbled to be awarded the Batterham Award. Those of you that know me realise that I am not often lost for words, but I was that night! Despite its ups and downs, the Australian Pig Industry is a great place to work. I value greatly the network of friends and colleagues that I have made during my involvement with this Industry. I would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of organisations and individuals that have greatly contributed, assisted and supported me during my development as a scientist and extension officer at the Pig Health and Research Unit (PHRU), Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Victoria.

I would like to thank all the sponsors of the Batterham Memorial Award, Ridley Agriproducts, Heartland Lysine (USA), BASF Animal Nutrition, Adisseo Animal Nutrition, Farmstock Feeds and Purina Mills. I would also like to thank APL for their financial support that has enabled me to start my career in pig science as a PRDC funded PhD scholar, and my studies in the United States

To Mr Ian Connaughton (Castlemaine Bacon Co.), Drs Trish Holyoake (University of Sydney) and Ivan Caple (Melbourne University), who were forever patient and supportive, I express my gratitude and sincere thanks. To the PHRU at the DPI, Victoria, a special thanks for all your assistance and support. You people are more like family than work colleagues.

Finally, I would again like to thank Dr Steve Driesen for his support, advice and friendship above and beyond the call of duty.

### **APL Student Profiles**

#### **David Cusack**

David's PhD project aimed to develop an antimicrobial plastic to increase the microbial safety of fresh pork. This plastic also aimed to extend the fresh life of fresh pork. The elimination of food borne pathogens such as *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella typhimurium* from the surface of fresh pork and the suppression of spoilage organisms (eg: *Pseudomonas fragi*) from the surface of fresh pork are two beneficial outcomes of this research.

### **Warren Raye**

Warren's PhD project centered around the pathogen, *porcine circovirus* (PCV). With the establishment of a national porcine serum bank at Murdoch University and the emergence of a number of syndromes in pigs closely associated with PCV (postweaning multisystemic wasting syndrome, porcine dermatitis and nephropathy syndrome and congenital tremor), a serological assay for screening large numbers of samples was deemed to be the initial step in understanding the impact of PCV to the Australian pig herd. Warren sequenced and analysed a number of isolates so as to compare the genetics of PCV present in Australia to those strains of PCV worldwide.

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc.) will be held on 23 December 2004 at 3.30 pm in Room RC 137, Riddet Building, Riddet Road, Turitea Campus, Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand. All inquiries can be addressed to the Secretary of APSA (Inc.), Mr. Ian Barugh, ph +64 6 3505308, Fax +64 6 3505684, [I.W.Barugh@massey.ac.nz](mailto:I.W.Barugh@massey.ac.nz)

### **Draft Agenda**

1. Minutes of the 2003 AGM
2. President's report
3. Editor's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. General business
6. Other business

### **Pig Trivia**

**Making the movie Babe involved using 48 piglets**

**People with diabetes use insulin from the pancreas of pigs to help them control their disease**

**Piglets are born with eight needle-sharp teeth**