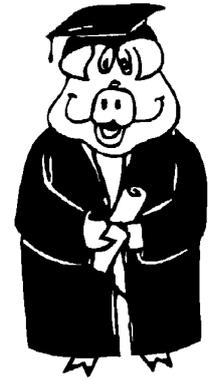


---

# APSA UPDATE

---



NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALASIAN PIG SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (INC.)

*President: Dr Pat Spicer*  
*Secretary: Mr Ian Barugh*  
*Newsletter Editor: Dr Bruce Mullan*

**March, 2004**

---

## ***And The President Said.....***

My first memory of an APSA Conference was as a slightly terrified PhD student, terrified because I would have to stand up in front of this huge and knowledgeable audience and present my experimental results. As luck would have it, my presentation was on the last day, so I felt that I couldn't really relax until it was all over. On a positive note, everyone was very supportive and quick with suggestions and hints. One of the best ones came from Andrew Pointon and it was "Get involved." I thought I was involved! I was there and presenting wasn't I? What Andrew meant was get involved in the atmosphere, ask questions during the presentations, talk to people during the breaks and it will be just like getting up and speaking to a group of friends. He was absolutely right. The apprehension I felt about speaking disappeared as soon as I stepped out and started talking to people. The APSA Conference provides an absolutely fantastic venue for world class pig scientists to network and exchange information and ideas. The networks formed are pretty strong because it's not all about work and pig science. The social side of APSA cements the friendships and business relationships that are formed during the Conference. I went from not knowing anyone except other students and work colleagues at my first Conference in 1997 to having both strong business and friendship networks within the APSA organisation and I know that this situation will only get better at the next Conference in 2005.

The Conference in Fremantle was an outstanding success and I would like to thank the outgoing President Dr John Pluske, the 2002-2003 Committee and the Secretariat for their outstanding efforts regarding the organisation of last years biennial Conference. I would also like to thank all our sponsors, as without their support, Conferences such as APSA would not occur. Thanks are also due to our editor Janet Paterson who did a tremendous first time job in editing the APSA Proceedings, and to Peter Cranwell who organised the printing and distribution of the Proceedings.

I would also like to welcome the new Committee, whose contact details can be found on page 3 of this newsletter. The committee members are there to serve the members of the association, so please feel free to make suggestions if you feel the outputs and outcomes of the association can be improved. At our first meeting in December last year the decision was made regarding the location of the next Conference. It is my great pleasure to announce that the 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc.) will be held in Christchurch, and the New Zealand Committee members are already hard at work attempting to secure a suitable venue for the 2005 Conference.

The APSA Updates provide current and detailed information regarding the upcoming Conference but it also provides a forum for members to discuss any aspect of pig

science. If you have any news or information that you think warrants inclusion in APSA Update, please send it to the Newsletter Editor, Dr. Bruce Mullan for inclusion in the next newsletter.

I am looking forward to the next two years and I urge all of you to get involved! Keep contributing your ideas and plans regarding APSA and the Conference, so that APSA remains an enthusiastic and vibrant Society.

Pat Spicer  
PRESIDENT

### ***Submissions to APSA Updates***

APSA Update is always on the lookout for anything of interest that may be suitable for our membership, i.e., pig science articles, coming events, Institution news – we'll consider anything once! If you would like to have something considered for publication in the APSA Update, please contact Dr Bruce Mullan, the Newsletter Editor.

### ***APSA Home Page***

Part of the success of recent APSA conferences is attributable to the accessibility of information about the conference and details about registration through the APSA web site. For the 2001 APSA conference, the committee organised the establishment of our own web site. As is now the norm for many other conferences, the APSA committee considered establishing a facility on the web site for on-line registration and payment. For reasons discussed by John Pluske in his President's report on page 7 of the newsletter this idea was deferred. However, it is anticipated that the incoming committee will consider using on-line registration and payment for the next conference.

### ***Coming Events***

To help members keep abreast of the latest in pig science, we are happy to publish relevant coming events. Please send your submissions to the APSA Newsletter Editor, Dr Bruce Mullan (address details contained in the list of APSA committee members on page 3).

## ***Feedback from 2003 APSA Conference***

Those of you who attended the Fremantle conference will recall being asked to provide feedback on the conference by completing a short questionnaire. This information is being used by the new committee to help develop the scientific and social program for the next conference. Following is a summary of the results from 156 completed forms. Participants were asked to rank various sections as: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Indifferent (I), Disagree (D) or Strongly Disagree (SD)

Pre-conference service: SA 35%, A 57%, I 7%, D 1%

Welcome reception: SA 35%, A 60%, I 5%

Conference dinner: SA 54%, A 39%, I 6%, D 1%

Happy hour: SA 31%, A 57%, I 12%

BBQ: SA 47%, A 50%, I 2%, D 1%

Catering: SA 67%, A 21%, I 1%, D 1%

Registration desk: SA 65%, A 34%, I 1%

Program content: SA 28%, A 61%, I 10%, D 1%

Posters: SA 32%, A 59%, I 4%, D 5%

Audio-visual: SA 49%, A 45%, I 5%, D 1%

Venue: SA 49%, A 47%, I 4%

Accommodation: SA 37%, A 55%, I 6%, D 2%

A brief summary of some of the comments that were given:

- Program needs to be more flexible and to provide more time for discussion, although the social events provided plenty of opportunity for networking
- Producer day a good initiative
- Screen was too high and speakers need to be able to change their own slides
- Some thought the reviews and symposium were excellent, whereas others thought that there should have been more discussion
- 1 or 2 more keynote speakers would have helped
- Good mix between commercial and scientific
- 3-minute poster presentations were well received, but need more space around posters during breaks
- While some thought the cost of social events was too high, the majority thought that the meals were the best ever (you get what you pay for)
- Excellent venue, well organized, very professional

A number of suggestions were made for future topics, and these will be discussed at the next meeting of the APSA Committee.

## ***The New APSA Committee.....***

There was once again healthy competition amongst APSA members at the AGM last December to become a member of the APSA Committee, suggesting that there is still plenty of enthusiasm left in this Association. The executive is made up of members from Victoria, Western Australia and New Zealand, with the ordinary committee members covering several different parts of Australia, and contributing a wide range of research disciplines and business skills to the Association. The committee has already met by telephone hook-up, with a face-to-face meeting to be held mid-year to start preparations for the 2005 conference.

### ***2002-2003 APSA Committee***

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>President</b><br/> <b>Dr Pat Spicer</b><br/>           Cefn Genetics P/L<br/>           Home address: "Broadacres"<br/>           Prairie, VIC, 3572, Australia<br/>           Ph: +61 3 5488 2306<br/>           Fax: +61 3 5488 2306<br/>           Mobile: 0427 140 006<br/>           E-mail: <a href="mailto:patspicer@cefn.com.au">patspicer@cefn.com.au</a></p> | <p><b>Vice-President</b><br/> <b>Dr Bruce Mullan</b><br/>           Western Australian Department of Agriculture,<br/>           Locked Bag No 4<br/>           Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983<br/>           Ph: +61 8 9368 3578<br/>           Fax: +61 8 9474 1295<br/>           Mobile: 0428 279 551<br/>           E-mail: <a href="mailto:bmullan@agric.wa.gov.au">bmullan@agric.wa.gov.au</a></p> |
| <p><b>Secretary</b><br/> <b>Mr Ian Barugh</b><br/>           Monogastric Research Centre<br/>           Massey University, Private Bag 11 222,<br/>           Palmerston North, New Zealand<br/>           Ph: +64 6 350 5308<br/>           Fax: +64 6 350 5684<br/>           E-mail: <a href="mailto:I.W.Barugh@massey.ac.nz">I.W.Barugh@massey.ac.nz</a></p>             | <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/> <b>Mr Graham Pearson</b><br/>           Monogastric Research Centre,<br/>           Massey University, Private Bag 11 222,<br/>           Palmerston North, New Zealand<br/>           ph: +64 6 350 5382<br/>           Fax: 64 6 350 5684<br/>           E-mail: <a href="mailto:G.Pearson@massey.ac.nz">G.Pearson@massey.ac.nz</a></p>   |

### ***Ordinary Members***

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Dr Frank Dunshea</b><br/>           Victorian Institute of Animal Science<br/>           Private Bag 7, Sneydes Road<br/>           Werribee VIC 3030, Australia<br/>           Ph: +61 3 9742 0438<br/>           Fax: +61 3 9742 0400<br/>           E-mail: <a href="mailto:frank.dunshea@nre.vic.gov.au">frank.dunshea@nre.vic.gov.au</a></p>                             | <p><b>Dr Patrick Morel</b><br/>           Institute of Food Nutrition and Human Health<br/>           Massey University, Private Bag 11-222<br/>           Palmerston North, New Zealand<br/>           Ph: +64 6 350 5338<br/>           Fax: +64 6 350 5684<br/>           E-mail: <a href="mailto:p.c.morel@massey.ac.nz">p.c.morel@massey.ac.nz</a></p> |
| <p><b>Mr. Rob Smits</b><br/>           QAF Meat Industries<br/>           PO Box 78<br/>           Corowa, NSW 2646, Australia<br/>           Ph: +61 2 60 33 8204<br/>           Ph: 02 60 33 8204 (direct)<br/>           Mobile: 0418 648 293<br/>           E-mail: <a href="mailto:RSmits@qafmeats.com.au">RSmits@qafmeats.com.au</a></p>                                      | <p><b>Mr Geogy Philip</b><br/>           Australian Pork Limited<br/>           PO Box 148<br/>           Deakin West<br/>           ACT 2600, Australia<br/>           Ph: +61 2 6285 2200<br/>           Fax: +61 2 6285 2288<br/>           E-mail: <a href="mailto:g.philip@apl.au.com">g.philip@apl.au.com</a></p>                                     |
| <p><b>Past-President</b><br/> <b>Dr John Pluske</b><br/>           Division of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences,<br/>           Murdoch University, Murdoch,<br/>           WA 6150, Australia<br/>           Ph: +61 8 9360 2012<br/>           Fax: +61 8 9360 2487<br/>           E-mail: <a href="mailto:jpluske@numbat.murdoch.edu.au">jpluske@numbat.murdoch.edu.au</a></p> |   |

***Please give the Committee members your support, and feel free to contact them if you have any suggestions/comments as to how the organisation and future conferences may be improved***

## **A Reflective Summation of the APSA Alternative Housing Symposium**

Dr Kim Nairn was Chairman for the Alternative Housing Symposium, and instead of just providing the standard summary at the end he produced the following poem:

*Shelters enabled pig farms to grow  
When Hugh Payne's work was all the go  
To become multi-site  
Or get carcass weights right  
And the cost per pig place was quite low*

*One casual observation  
On sows straw housed in gestation  
On this fibre source  
They will shit like a horse  
And without farrowing complication*

*And my shelter is a belter  
Amidst the summer swelter  
The hot air removal  
Meets the pig's approval  
When all outside does melt(a)*

*But when winter's cold is teasin'  
The tunnel lets the breeze in  
The grower FCR  
Can rise too far  
And weaner pigs left cold & freezin'*

*How to use APSA inspired information  
Can be a great source of frustration  
How to feed ractopamine?  
(Ron, Where's the Paylean?)  
Or to use pST or immunocastration*

*Can we use tunnel houses for breeding?  
And how do we adopt true phase feeding?  
And we know that we oughta  
Use Magnesium preslaughter  
But that's a battle that most are conceding*

*Finding the evidence should sows abort'em  
Or pig handling – to draft & to sort'em  
It can be a challenge to market  
And should a pig cark it  
How to find an intact corpse for post mortem?*

*We desire a most simple solution  
To control tunnel house ablutions  
To prevent the situation  
Of the feeding station  
Being fouled by pig made pollution*

*So how to bridge these knowledge gaps(a)  
And to enlighten us all perhaps(a)  
Well, we've now set the scene  
For this intellect keen  
Come find the answers at the Christchurch  
APSA  
KN (25/11/03)*

## **And the Winner Is.....**

Dr Pat Spicer is the well-deserved recipient of the 2003 Batterham Memorial Award. Pat completed a degree in Agricultural Science at La Trobe University in 1985. In 1996 she commenced a PhD at the School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Melbourne from where she graduated at the end of 1999. In the intervening years between University studies Pat spent time working on a number of Victorian pig farms in various capacities.

After completing her PhD she spent 12 months on a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Purdue University before taking up a position at the Department of Primary Industries, Bendigo. She now provides breeding and technical support to CEFN genetics. She is highly regarded for her ability to disseminate and pass on technical information in a "take-home" format to producers, an important skill that made her a worthy winner of the Batterham Memorial Award.

The Batterham Memorial Award recognises the contributions of the Late Dr Ted Batterham to the Australasian Pig Science Association and the Australian pig industry. Following Ted's death in February 1994, an award was quickly established by APSA in his honour. A variety of organizations, both domestic and international, that benefited from Ted's research and efforts also generously made financial contributions to ensure the award was prestigious and highly sought after. Gold sponsors, Ridley Agriproducts, Heartland Lysine (US), BASF Animal Nutrition and Rhone Poulenc Animal Nutrition, together with silver sponsors Farmstock Feeds and Purina Mills (US) should be commended for their recognition of Ted Batterham and their support of young scientists. In return, these sponsors deserve the support of the Australian pig industry.

## **APSA Farm-tours**

Following the APSA conference two farm tours were organised to look at various aspects of pork production in WA. Graham Pearson, Massey University, NZ, provides a summary of these days.

Twenty-eight NZ pork producers who joined several Australians and overseas visitors enjoyed the post APSA conference two-day study tour organised by Hugh Payne, from

WA's Dept. of Agriculture. Two "grow-out" farms visited on the first day were utilising shelters quite differently. One ran their weaners only in shelters and finished the pigs in conventional buildings, while the other used their shelters right through to sale time. However, common themes were "family farms" utilising pork production to retain young people in the rural community, yet retaining "free" time because they only had batched grower pigs on-hand.

Both farms visited were very efficient, their feed costs (\$/kg lwg) at 0.89 and 0.92 were in line with the Australian Pig Stats 2001 value of 0.91.

Some observations: Both farms poured their concrete shelter walls on-site. Because Steve Martin poured his walls in-situ, before the floors, the walls were 1.1 and in the feeder area only 0.8 M high, offering considerable cost savings. Steve assured us his "Aussie" pigs did not jump out!

With big groups reaching slaughter weight in his shelters, Steve's team utilises their well set up handling area, located in a central shelter, for pig selection prior to slaughter, thus maximising returns per pig. Steve also had a clever "clip-in system", designed when the shelters were constructed two years ago, to water medicate with electrolytes each batch of new arrivals, housed in four adjacent shelters.

Errol Howard, the second farmer, had used shelters to expand his unit, and transferred his pigs after 10-weeks to his conventional sheds. Pigs were weighed and sorted on transfer into 10 kg weight bands and the empty shelters cleared and then pressure washed.

The visit to the WA Skills Centre, on the second day, demonstrated the value in an Australian summer of a fully environmentally controlled farrowing facility. Sows and litters looked very comfortable, with the evaporative cooling system providing them with a cool airflow during the heat of the day.

The study tour concluded with a visit to Perth Pork Centre's recently refurbished export pork slaughter facilities. NZ producers on the tour were impressed and concluded that the improved lairage facilities and new European sourced equipment has given this company a World class facility.

## **Australasian Pig Science Association Annual General Meeting 2001**

### **Past-President's Report – John Pluske November 24, 2003**

The Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc.) has delivered yet another successful conference in 2003 with high scientific standards, quality presentations and plenty of scientific and social interaction. It has been my pleasure to preside over this conference since 2001, and I am grateful for the support received from members of the APSA (Inc.) committee, the Secretariat, the Editor and the many sponsors and well-wishers we have had. Of particular note is the fact that Western Australia hosted the APSA (Inc.) conference for the first time and, judging from the enthusiastic response we have had, this probably should not be the last. In this report to members, I would like to make the following comments:

#### **Sponsorship**

A large number of sponsors contributed to the 2003 conference, some for the first time, and I thank every one of you for your support of APSA (Inc.). Your sponsorship is vitally important to the success of the conference and the overall viability of the Association. Australian Pork Limited took on the role of Principal Sponsor, and the conference would not have been possible without their inputs. Thanks to Dr Ian Johnsson and Geogy Philip from APL for their efforts in this regard, and we trust that the strong bonds between APSA (Inc.) and Australian Pork Limited can continue for future conferences. Dr Pat Spicer, the Vice-President for 2003, must be singled out and thanked for her sterling efforts in securing the level of sponsorship we received. Total cash sponsorship for the conference was in excess of \$60,000, and is necessary so that we can continue to put on a high quality, pig science focused conference for all to enjoy. In this respect, the APSA (Inc.) Committee has been very conscious of costs for this year's conference, and we trust we have been able to return a profit for the Association this time around.

#### **Conference location and format**

Fremantle (Western Australia) has proven to be the ideal location for this year's APSA conference, not that I am biased in any way whatsoever. Total registrants were in

excess of 230, with just under one third being from overseas. To be honest, this year's attendance exceeded my expectations, and I would like to say thank you to everyone for coming along, particularly our international guests. It's been great. There is general consensus amongst the current APSA (Inc.) Committee, and indeed others in the pig science community, to hold the 10<sup>th</sup> biennial conference in New Zealand in 2005. I would be delighted if this went ahead, and encourage the incoming committee to consider this possibility.

Innovations introduced at the 2003 conference have proved successful. A dedicated 'Producers' Day' incorporating the 'Alternative Housing' symposium, plus relevant reviews, symposia and selected 1-page papers, have contributed to the day's success. I was particularly pleased with the support shown by local (WA) producers and sponsors, and suggest that a similar 'day' be set aside for future conferences. I believe that greater interaction among ALL facets of the pig science community will be needed to ensure the long-term success of the Association and the conference. Furthermore, the advent of the post-conference tours (organised by Hugh Payne of the WA Department of Agriculture – thanks Hugh) have proven a big success, and provided the opportunity for visitors, particularly from overseas, to make the time spent away more educational and worthwhile, and a more legitimate tax deduction. Moreover, the introduction of a dedicated poster viewing session held in conjunction with a "Happy Hour" should further allay concerns that posters don't receive enough attention at the conference. Of course, the Sunday workshops, oral poster sessions and the higher level of corporate exposure continue to make beneficial contributions to the conference. The use of PowerPoint presentations with professional assistance has also proved to be highly successful and should be continued in the future. Thanks to Jae-Cheol Kim of Murdoch University for coordinating this vital part of the conference.

#### **Committee business, committee expenses and committee structure**

The 2001-2003 APSA (Inc.) Committee held seven phone hook-up meetings and two face-to-face meetings in preparation for this year's conference. All meetings were well attended by Committee members. The annual face-to-face meetings are considered important events in the planning and execution of a

successful conference, and need to be encouraged in some form for future conferences. My only concern might be for the costs incurred to APSA (Inc.) in holding such events, given the generally diverse geographical location of Committee members.

One aspect of APSA (Inc.) that I would encourage is more postgraduate student involvement in the Association. Students seem to have gone missing in recent times, and I think it would be great if a student were elected onto the APSA (Inc.) committee. If this does not occur, then the APSA (Inc.) committee could possibly consider co-opting a student. This would not only allow the students' perspective to be voiced in APSA (Inc.), but could also facilitate a greater role for students in the pig industry as a whole.

#### **Editorship and Sales of the Proceedings**

The running of the 9<sup>th</sup> biennial conference saw several changes, namely a new Editor and the appointment of a dedicated Sales and Marketing Manager. Peter Cranwell, who edited four conference proceedings between 1995 (conjointly with David Hennessy) and 2001 (MPP V-VIII), did not tender to edit this year's proceedings. Janet Paterson, from Sci Scribe Scientific Copywriting, Brookton, WA, successfully tendered for the position. I believe that Janet has done an excellent job in continuing the very high standard of editing and presentation expected of the proceedings. In response to comments made at the 2001 AGM in Adelaide, an Editorial Subcommittee (chaired by Dr Ian Williams from the University of Western Australia) was set up to assist the Editor with 'difficult' papers and to resolve some other issues. This worked reasonably well in my view, and I thank Ian for his efforts. However, I believe there are still some outstanding (and major) issues related to refereeing standards and the acceptance/rejection of papers that need to be addressed, with haste, by the incoming Committee. Ian Williams will touch on some of these in his presentation to the AGM, and I urge you to comment and contribute.

The costs of securing an Editor were maintained for this year's conference, relative to the cost for 2001. The tender process for the position needs to be maintained and APSA (Inc.) must ensure a suitable individual is retained as Editor, with the costs adequately reflecting the duties performed. The appointment of a Sales and Marketing Manager of the proceedings enabled the Committee to secure a new contract with Peter Cranwell for the conference, that I

believe was mutually beneficial to both parties.

### **Secretariat**

Employment of a dedicated conference Secretariat for this year's conference has again proved a success. Mrs Margaret Hector and Dr Johanna Pluske successfully tendered for this year's Secretariat, and have provided outstanding service to all delegates and the APSA (Inc.) committee, often under trying circumstances, to ensure a highly successful conference. It is very important that a dedicated Secretariat, or similar arrangement, be maintained in future years.

### **Newsletters**

'APSA Updates' were delivered electronically for the first time in the lead up to this year's conference, and feedback on this form of distribution for the Newsletter has been positive. I believe that members value the Newsletter and the information contained within, although I believe the Newsletter could be more effectively used by the Australasian pig science community for dispersal of current issues and topics of general interest. Thanks to Dr Pat Spicer for being the Newsletter Editor. Continuity is important, and I believe that the new committee should ensure that information within newsletters is complete and provided in a timely manner.

### **Web page**

The APSA (Inc.) web page is a great asset and represents an excellent conduit for the APSA (Inc.) Committee, the Secretariat and the Sales and Marketing Manager. Dr Susanne Hermes of AGBU, NSW, must be thanked for her great efforts in maintaining the site and regularly changing and updating items as required. The web page contributed significantly to the high number of inquiries and subsequent registrations. Consideration was made by the Committee early in 2002 to set up the APSA (Inc.) web page for on-line registration and payment, but a decision on this was deferred due to the cost of establishment and issues associated with credit card security. Other conferences held in Australia, e.g., *Recent Advances in Animal Nutrition*, and indeed the world, use such a facility. The technology is obviously available, and perhaps the incoming committee should consider this for the next conference, but only if members see it as an important issue.

### **Batterham Memorial Award**

The Batterham Memorial Award remains a feature of any APSA (Inc.) conference. A

reduced, but still strong, list of candidates applied for this year's award, and the winner will be announced at tonight's dinner. Continued thanks to the sponsors of this award are expressed, as is their recognition of the importance of the award to the advancement of pig science in Australasia.

### **Membership fees**

Memberships continue to be somewhat of an Achilles' heel for the Association, in my view. In response to comments received at the 2001 AGM, the Committee, through the Treasurer Dr Darryl D'Souza, began invoicing members for their dues. I believe that this has been a success, however there still remains a large number of members with outstanding fees. In this regard, I believe that the incoming Committee must appoint a dedicated and central point (i.e., person) to maintain a single membership database. This must incorporate the Newsletter database, which always seems different to the membership database. An incentive should perhaps be provided to members for prompt payment of their dues once they receive the invoice. We already have a reasonably strong incentive, which is a higher registration fee for the conference, but this doesn't seem to work particularly well.

### **APSA directions and objectives**

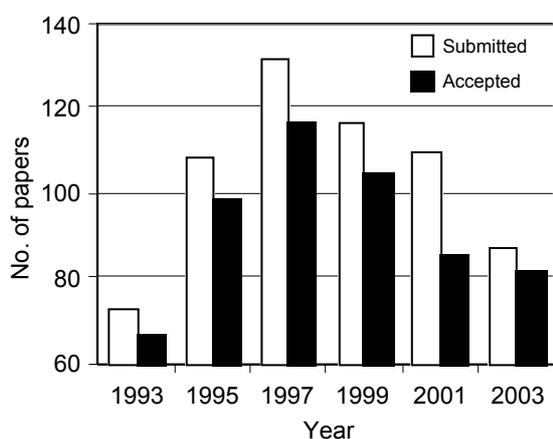
It is vital that APSA does not become complacent and continues to define its role within the Australasian pig industry. Although the incoming APSA (Inc.) Committee will largely be charged with these tasks, I would strongly encourage the membership, and indeed others associated with the pig science community, to provide suggestions and comments to meet these challenges. Dr Mike Taverner will discuss some of these issues briefly during this AGM. It is obvious that changes have occurred, and will continue to occur, in the Australasian research environment. There appears to be less fully-engaged pig scientists in Australasia, and perhaps this is now the status quo and simply a reflection of the changed circumstances in regard to funding? I don't know.

For example, the figure on page 8 shows the number of 1-page papers submitted and accepted for publication in APSA proceedings between 1993 and 2003 (MPP IV-IX). The graph is characterised by a steady decline since the 1997 meeting in the number of submitted and accepted papers, going from a high of 117 accepted 1-page papers in 1997 to around 81 at this meeting. This reflects the changing atmosphere of pig research in

Australia, and poses a number of questions that the Association, and the pig science community in general, needs to address for its long-term future.

Regardless, APSA must ensure it fulfils the needs of its members and sponsors in this changing environment. Given this, I believe that the innovations we introduced to this year's conference have helped to maintain delegate interest and numbers attending the conference, particularly the number of international delegates, and I hope that the new committee is able to maintain or increase this level of conference participation. Greater consultation, participation and stimulation from the wider pig industry community will be required to ensure that APSA continues its pivotal role in the pig industry.

John Pluske



**Figure 1.** The number of submitted and accepted 1-page papers in APSA proceedings between 1993 (MPP IV) and 2003 (MPP IX).

## ***Manipulating Pig Production IX***

**Editor's Report – Janet Paterson**  
 (Sci Scribe Scientific Copywriting)  
 21<sup>st</sup> November 2003  
**2003 Annual General Meeting**

Eighty-eight one-page papers, four reviews and one symposium (containing three papers) were submitted for consideration by the Editorial committee for inclusion in *Manipulating Pig Production IX*. A 'Producers' Day' symposium was also held at the conference, and some selected 1-page

papers from the proceedings appeared in this supplement.

Of the 88 one-page papers, two were rejected. One of these was rejected because it did not adhere to the APSA one-page paper format of a scientific experiment, and the other because the content was not considered scientific enough for inclusion. A further three papers were withdrawn by the authors once they had been refereed and deemed suitable for inclusion in the proceedings only after major revision.

I believe that the incoming APSA (Inc.) Committee needs to address some key issues associated with the refereeing process, e.g., establishing more stringent (or less stringent) criteria for the acceptance/rejection of a paper. Numerous 1-page papers had opposing referee's reports, i.e., one accepted the paper and the other rejected the paper outright. This made the final decision difficult to make at times.

Four reviews were submitted for consideration. All were deemed suitable for inclusion in the proceedings after minor revision. Unfortunately, a fifth review was withdrawn from the proceedings because the author was unable to make the deadline for submission due to work constraints.

The symposium was accepted for inclusion after minor revision. One of the contributors to the symposium withdrew due to time constraints, and the APSA Committee was most thankful to Dr Andrew Fisher who prepared an excellent paper within a short time frame to fill the gap.

For the most part the editorial and refereeing process went well, and I wish to thank the (majority of) the authors for replying to questions and returning their contribution(s) promptly. I also wish to thank the referees for their efforts. There were some problems with figures and graphs, due mainly to authors not reading the 'Instructions to Authors', and perhaps also to the different software packages used. Nevertheless, these were sorted out efficiently, and I believe the quality of the proceedings reflects this.

As a first-time Editor for the *Manipulating Pig Production* series, I was a little unsure as to my exact duties and roles. I believe in future that the Editor should be provided with a more complete outline of his/her requirements associated with the editorial process, and the

precise role(s) that he/she is expected to play. I would also like to suggest to the incoming Committee that the roles of the Editor and the Publications and Sales Manager be defined more clearly.

Given my experiences in this role as the Editor of *Manipulating Pig Production IX*, I would welcome the opportunity to tender for the position again provided a more succinct arrangement could be reached with the incoming Committee regarding the various roles. I thank the APSA committee for their help and support and the Editorial Subcommittee for refereeing several papers at short notice.

Janet Paterson

## **APSA Publications**

### **PD Cranwell (Sales Manager & Distributor)**

As well as supplying the copies of *Manipulating Pig Production IX* that were distributed to delegates at the IXth APSA Conference in Fremantle, I have also been distributing copies to financial members who did not attend the Conference. If any of you have not received your copy of MPP IX please let me know.

For each additional copy of MPP IX that I sell within Australia and overseas APSA (Inc.) receives a royalty. So the more copies of MPP IX that are sold the greater will be the financial benefit to APSA (Inc.) as well to myself. Thus APSA members could help the Association financially by playing a greater role in promoting the sale of *Manipulating Pig Production*. This could be done in a number of ways. The following are some suggestions:

1). APSA members could recommend purchase of *Manipulating Pig Production* by their institutional or company libraries, and by colleagues who are not members of APSA. Do you or does your library have a full set of *Manipulating Pig Production I-IX*?

2). Members could send me names and addresses of potential purchasers both from within Australia and overseas.

3). Members could let me know if they would be willing to distribute brochures advertising *Manipulating Pig Production I-IX* at any conferences they plan to attend or overseas institutions they intend to visit. Just send me an email message stating where you are going and how many brochures you require.

4). Any other suggestions you might have which would assist in the promotion and sale of *Manipulating Pig Production* would be most welcome. Just send me a message by email with your ideas.

Australian and Overseas customers can download price lists for all volumes of *Manipulating Pig Production* together with order forms and details of postage and packaging charges from the APSA website.

**Australian** customers should visit:

<http://www.apsa.asn.au/mpp.html>

and click on [Australian](#)

**Overseas** customers should visit:

<http://www.apsa.asn.au/mpp.html>

and click on [Overseas](#)

Contact details:

P.D. Cranwell,  
Sales Manager & Distributor  
APSA Publications,  
PO Box 620,  
Rosanna,  
Victoria 3084,  
AUSTRALIA

Tel: +61-3-9459 6720.

Fax: +61-3-9459 8887.

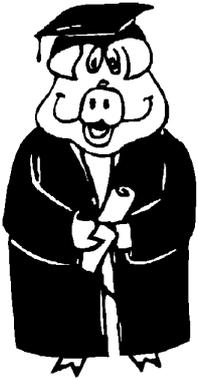
Email: [pcranwell@optushome.com.au](mailto:pcranwell@optushome.com.au)

Email: [p.cranwell@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:p.cranwell@latrobe.edu.au)

Website: <http://www.apsa.asn.au>

## In Summary,

- Feedback on 2003 APSA Conference
- Report on APSA 2003 Farm Tours
- President's and Editor's reports included
- Know anyone that wants to become a member of APSA?
- Know anyone who would be interested in purchasing a copy of MPP IX?



APSA UPDATE

Newsletter of the Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc.)

*“The purpose of the Australasian Pig Science Association (Inc.) is to provide a forum for excellent science related to all aspects of the pig industry. By promoting an interaction between scientists from different disciplines, we will provide a benefit to the pig industries of Australia and New Zealand”.*